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IN COLOUR

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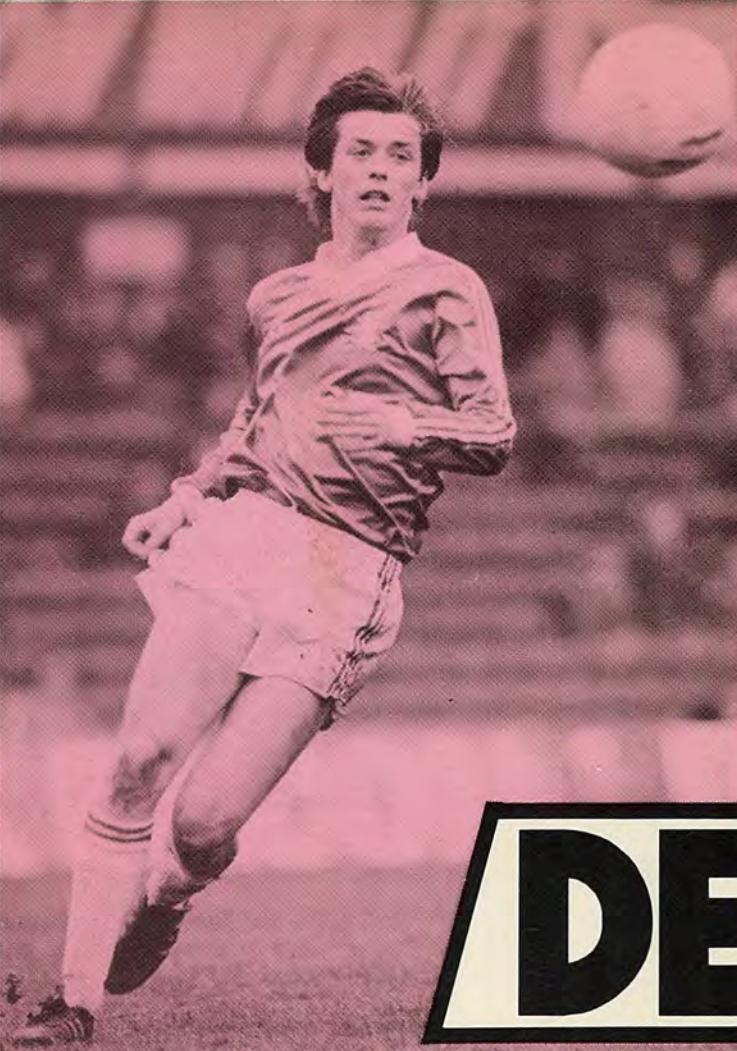
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**Have the Blades
lost their edge?**



KEVIN DILLON has no regrets about turning his back on Birmingham's battle for First Division survival.

And he believes he has more chance of achieving success with ambitious Third Division club Portsmouth.

"I've been something of a misfit at the club since Ron Saunders took over last season," says the £200,000 midfield player.

"I'm glad it's all over. I just didn't fit into his style of play and I've been waiting for the chance to move on.

"His style of hitting front men as early as possible brought him success with Norwich and Aston Villa, but it's no good to a player like myself who enjoys playing football in midfield.

"I think he would have sold me at the beginning of the season if anything had come of stories linking me with Newcastle and Manchester United.

"The time had come for me to

Left: Kevin Dillon — hoping his career can take off with ambitious Portsmouth.

MISFIT DILLON HAS NO REGRETS

move on. I've achieved nothing at City in seven years and I was getting stale.

"It's a great club but, to be honest, my wife and myself have never been happy living in Birmingham.

"But, while I have no regrets about leaving, I do feel sorry for the fans who saw myself and Alan Curbishley sold on the same day.

"I just hope for the sake of them and the players that the club manages to stay in the First

DEADLINE

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FRONT COVER CAPTION:
Tottenham's Paul Miller and Watford's Gerry Armstrong battle for possession.

CURBISHLEY'S CLOSE CALL

ALAN Curbishley was the length of a half-time interval away from missing out on a move to rivals Aston Villa.

The transfer deadline was just ten minutes away when the midfield star signed on the dotted line.

And Alan made the £100,000 move from local rivals Birmingham knowing that he will probably spend the rest of the season in the reserves!

"The manager Tony Barton was very straightforward. He told me I would not be in the side to start with and would have to battle for a place," says Alan.

"I was prepared to accept that and I hope the team wins the next 11 games and I don't get in because that means we'll qualify for Europe.

"It will give me time to settle in at the club and then I can make a positive challenge for a place next season."

Alan's move across the soccer-mad city came like a bolt out of the blue. He knew nothing of Villa's interest until the morning of deadline day.

"Ron Saunders called me into his office at about 11 o'clock on the Thursday and said he was interested in a Villa player and that they wanted to buy me," says Alan.

"He said he was willing to let me go and so I immediately made the 20-minute journey across the city from Birmingham's training ground to Villa and spoke to Tony Barton."

The former West Ham player says that, with the transfer deadline looming, he had an idea his days at St Andrews were numbered.

"We played at Watford the previous Tuesday and I knew one or two clubs were watching me... but I had no idea that Villa were one of them."

"In a way, I was sorry to leave Birmingham, but when a club makes an offer for you and the boss accepts it, it's in the player's best interests to go."

"There was no animosity between myself and Ron Saunders, in fact I always got on well with him, but I was obviously surplus to requirements and felt I should go."

Alan became the latest in a long line of players to leave St Andrews since Ron Saunders took over in January 1982.

More than 20 players have been sold in the last year in a massive clear-out as the manager tries to rebuild a successful side.

Alan does not condone the



Alan Curbishley — signed with ten minutes to spare.

manager's policy and says: "He knows exactly what he wants to do and whether he succeeds only time will tell."

The 25-year-old player ended a three-and-a-half-year association with Birmingham at a time when the club is fighting for First Division survival.

"This season has been a disaster because the club has suffered from so many injuries to key players. In fact when I left, they had already used 30 different players and there's still a quarter of the season to go."

"While I was there, I thought we could stay up and I think if the lads can win their next few home games that will happen," says Alan, who has signed a contract which will keep him at Villa Park for more than two seasons.

Division.

"I know the signs all point to Second Division football next season, but the club has climbed out of holes before and there's no reason why it can't do it again."

But deep down Kevin knows there is every prospect that he will be returning to St Andrews next season with Portsmouth.

He doesn't regard his decision to drop down two divisions as a gamble.

"It's no gamble. I'm confident that Portsmouth will achieve promotion from the Third Division this season," says their record signing.

"It's a big club and they are very ambitious. Proof of that is the money they have spent on myself and West Ham's Nicky Morgan, who cost £50,000. A club doesn't spend that kind of money if it's not ambitious."

"Everything is geared for big things at Fratton Park. They're already getting bigger gates than Birmingham and I believe I'll achieve more at Portsmouth than if I had stayed at St Andrews."

"The fact that Portsmouth were in the Third Division hardly crossed my mind when I talked

over the move with my wife.

"I was immediately struck by the ambition of the chairman, Mr Deacon, and manager Bobby Campbell, and they had no problem convincing me that I would be making the right move."

But, as Kevin explains, the move came completely out of the blue.

"I had resigned myself to staying at Birmingham at least until the end of the season.

"But after our 2-1 defeat at Watford last month, Mr Saunders asked me whether I would be interesting in moving, and I said yes.

"I met club officials on a motorway service station the next night and four hours later, at 1am, I telephoned Mr Campbell to give him my answer.

"I also telephoned Mr Saunders during the early hours of the morning and he seemed pleased. I would think the club needed the money.

"Then, a few hours later, I was driving down to Portsmouth to meet the players for the first time.

"It was all very hectic, but I'm sure I've made the right decision, and I'm hoping my career can take off in a different environment."

BATTLES BURNS JOINS THE DOGFIGHT

KENNY Burns joined Derby's relegation dogfight insisting: "I can still do a good job in the First Division."

"I'm disappointed that no team from the top flight has come in for me," says the transfer-listed Leeds star, who has signed a month's loan at the Baseball Ground.

"There are a few years in me yet. I'm only 29 and my past record speaks for itself."

The former Nottingham Forest and Scotland hard man has joined his old boss at the City Ground, Peter Taylor, and is expected to play seven games in just four weeks.

Kenny is the man the Derby boss feels can help lift the club out of danger, but Kenny doesn't feel any extra pressure.



Kenny Burns — "There are a few years in me yet."

He says: "The only pressure I feel is having to get up earlier in the morning for the longer drive down the motorway to training!"

He was substitute for his first game — Derby's 2-0 win over Bolton — and he explains: "I was so keen to get on I felt like tripping up one of my new team-mates!"

"I was really impressed with the team. They never gave up battling and could have won by a few more goals."

Kenny, who started his career at Birmingham, has been unsettled at Leeds since the club were relegated to the Second Division at the end of last season.

He says: "Going down was a very bitter pill for me to swallow. It really hurt my pride."

BEATERS!

'MATCH' spotlights the transfer deadline day moves and brings you the inside stories on the most talked-about deals.

NEIL McNab's bust-up with Chairman Mike Bamber could force him to leave FA Cup Semi-Finalists Brighton.

On the eve of the club's finest hour, Neil admits: "It's best if I get away. I don't see eye to eye with the Chairman and feel I've been treated unfairly."

Neil, who has made just 13 League appearances for the 'Seagulls', beat the transfer deadline by signing on loan until the end of the season with Third Division promotion-chasers Portsmouth.

"It's been a frustrating season for me. I started off in the team — in fact I was skipper while Steve Foster was suspended — but since my disagreement with the Chairman, I've been out of the reckoning."

Neil has had to watch from the stands as his team-mates created club history by reaching the last four of the FA Cup and he admits: "It rankles me a bit because I know I should have been there. I know I'm good enough to play in the first team."

Neil refuses to discuss the reason for his argument with Mike Bamber. He says: "It's a personal thing. We don't agree on certain problems."

"Although I'm unhappy at the club, I haven't asked for a move. I've still got four years of my contract to serve at The Goldstone Ground."

"I'd prefer to get away from Brighton but there's no way I'm

BUST-UP FORCES MCNAB TO MOVE

going to ask for a move," adds the former Spurs and Bolton star.

The 25-year-old thought he had managed to get away earlier this season when he looked set to join Leeds after a successful month on loan at Elland Road.

"I had agreed terms with manager Eddie Gray but the deal fell through. I was very disappointed because I enjoyed my spell there and got on very well with everyone at the club."

Now Portsmouth manager Bobby Campbell has taken advantage of the loan system by signing the gritty midfielder even though he is currently out with an ankle injury.

"My main aim now is to get fit and help Portsmouth win promotion to the Second Division. I don't know what will happen at the end of the season. I could have to go back to Brighton."

"Portsmouth are potentially a bigger club than Brighton and they've proved they are ambitious by splashing out £200,000 on Kevin Dillon."

"There was only one club in the Third Division that I would have signed for and that was Portsmouth," says Neil.

DEADLINE DAY REGISTRATIONS

Player	From	To	Fee
Paul Hooks	Notts Co	Derby Co	£40,000
Tony Reid	Derby Co	Newport	Free
Steve Emery	Derby Co	Newport	Free
Laurie Cunningham	Real Madrid	Man Utd	—
Gordon Staniforth	Carlisle	Plymouth	Exchange
Robert Mitchell	Carlisle	Rotherham	Free
Mick McGuire	Norwich	Barnsley	£30,000
Mick McCartney	Plymouth	Carlisle	—
Nicky Morgan	West Ham	Portsmouth	£50,000
Neil McNab	Brighton	Portsmouth	Loan
Terry Connor	Leeds	Brighton	Exchange
Michael Lester	Bradford	Scunthorpe	£7,000
William Jeffrey	Blackpool	Northampton	—
David Beaven	Lincoln	Northampton	—
Jonathan Laws	Wolves	Mansfield	—
Philip Cavenere	Burnley	Bradford	Loan
Kenny Burns	Leeds	Derby Co	Loan
Peter Cartwright	Newcastle	Darlington	Free
Trevor Senior	Portsmouth	Aldershot	Loan
Bob Lee	Carlisle	Southampton	—
Brian Borrows	Everton	Bolton	£25,000
Tony Godden	WBA	Luton	Loan
Michael Nutton	Chelsea	Millwall	—
Everton Carr	Halifax	Rochdale	—
Michael Bate	Grimsby	Bury	Loan
Alan McDonald	QPR	Charlton	—
Trevor Aylott	Millwall	Luton	£30,000
Barry Gallagher	Bradford	Halifax	Free
Anthony Larkin	Carlisle	Hereford	Free
Mark Leonard	Everton	Tranmere	Loan
Kevin Stonehouse	Blackburn	Huddersfield	—
Robert Hopkins	A Villa	Birmingham	Exchange
Emlyn Hughes	Rotherham	Hull	No fee
George Best	Golden Bay	Bournemouth	—
Colin Walker	Barnsley	Doncaster	Free
John McPhail	Sheffield Utd	York	—
Kevin Dillon	Birmingham	Portsmouth	£200,000
James Brown	Cardiff	Sheffield Utd	—
Alan Curbishley	Birmingham	A Villa	£100,000
David Crown	Portsmouth	Exeter	Loan
David West	Dorchester	Liverpool	£15,000
Gordon Owen	Sheff Wed	Chesterfield	Loan
Stuart Boam	ex-Mansfield	Hartlepool	—

EXCLUSIVE SURVEY!

How does your favourite team fare in our 'Mean Machine' league table?



FOURTH Division Port Vale are the most uncharitable team in the Football League.

That's not meant as an uncomplimentary description of the promotion-chasing team from the Potteries.

But it's their mean streak in terms of conceding goals that is laying the foundation for their bid to return to the Third Division after a five-year absence.

Our exclusive survey reveals that John McGrath's side has the best defensive record in the country with just 25 League goals conceded after 34 matches.

And it's certainly one in the eye for the Liverpool's and Manchester United's of this world in having to play second fiddle to one of the unsung clubs from the League's backwaters.

In fact, the Fourth Division has five representatives in the top eight, with rejuvenated Hull City following Port Vale before the emergence of the First Division giants Liverpool and Manchester United who share third place.

Second Division title favourites Queen's Park Rangers are sandwiched between three more lesser mortals — Scunthorpe, Peterborough and Bury — before big-spending Portsmouth who are the Third Division's top club in ninth spot.

The top eight have all conceded less than one goal a game this season, with Peterborough the only one of those sides without any real chance of honours.

The club with the dubious distinction of having the leakiest defence in the country is Third Division Exeter who could well concede more than 100 before the season is over.

They had let in 84 in 37 matches for an average of 2.27 goals conceded per game, and there are five other clubs topping the 2.00 mark, including First Division newcomers Luton who have found top flight strikers a little too hot to handle this term.

Notts County and Cup chasing Brighton are also well down the list, and Manchester City, one-time leaders of the First Division, find themselves leaking like a colander as they slip into the relegation battle ground.

GOALS CONCEDED THIS SEASON

Pos	Team	Goals conceded	Games played	Avg goals conceded per game
1	Port Vale	25	34	0.74
2	Hull City	28	36	0.78
3	Liverpool	26	32	0.81
4	Man United	25	31	0.81
5	Scunthorpe	28	34	0.82
6	QPR	27	32	0.84
7	Peterborough	32	34	0.94
8	Bury	36	37	0.97
9	Portsmouth	35	35	1.00
10	Wimbledon	37	35	1.06
11	Wolves	34	32	1.06
12	Leicester	35	32	1.09
13	Swindon	37	34	1.09
14	Colchester	39	35	1.11
15	Huddersfield	39	35	1.11
16	Leeds	35	31	1.13
17	Sheff Wed	35	31	1.13
18	Watford	36	32	1.13
19	Fulham	36	31	1.16
20	Oldham	37	32	1.16
21	West Brom	37	32	1.16
22	Lincoln	42	36	1.17
23	Newport	42	36	1.17
24	Everton	38	32	1.19
25	Ipswich	39	32	1.22
26	C Palace	38	31	1.23
27	Oxford	43	35	1.23
28	Sheff United	41	33	1.24
29	Nott'm Forest	40	32	1.25
30	Arsenal	39	31	1.26
31	Bristol Rovers	43	34	1.26
32	Aston Villa	41	32	1.28
33	Tottenham	41	32	1.28
34	Shrewsbury	41	32	1.28
35	Cardiff	46	36	1.28
36	Southend	46	36	1.28
37	Barnsley	40	31	1.29
38	Chester	47	36	1.31
39	Halifax	47	36	1.31
40	Newcastle	41	31	1.32
41	Coventry	44	32	1.38
42	Gillingham	50	36	1.39
43	Blackburn	45	32	1.41
44	Bolton	45	32	1.41
45	Blackpool	48	34	1.41
46	Birmingham	44	31	1.42
47	Chesterfield	51	36	1.42
48	York	50	35	1.43
49	Chelsea	46	32	1.44
50	Torquay	49	34	1.44
51	Sunderland	45	31	1.45
52	Derby	45	31	1.45
53	Wrexham	51	35	1.46
54	Mansfield	51	35	1.46
55	Southampton	47	32	1.47
56	Plymouth	52	35	1.49
57	Stoke	48	32	1.50
58	Swansea	48	32	1.50
59	Darlington	52	34	1.53
60	Walsall	52	34	1.53
61	Rotherham	49	32	1.53
62	West Ham	48	31	1.55
63	Bournemouth	56	36	1.56
64	Cambridge	50	32	1.56
65	Crewe	55	35	1.57
66	Bradford City	55	35	1.57
67	Bristol City	57	36	1.58
68	Rochdale	54	34	1.59
69	Grimsby	51	32	1.59
70	Wigan	57	35	1.63
71	Norwich	51	31	1.64
72	Tranmere	60	36	1.67
73	Burnley	49	29	1.69
74	Brentford	61	36	1.69
75	Aldershot	61	36	1.69
76	Hartlepool	61	36	1.69
77	Hereford	62	36	1.72
78	Northampton	63	36	1.75
79	Man City	58	33	1.76
80	Preston	60	34	1.76
81	Reading	66	37	1.78
82	Notts County	59	33	1.79
83	Carlisle	58	32	1.81
84	Stockport	66	36	1.83
85	Brighton	59	32	1.84
86	Middlesbrough	61	32	1.91
87	Millwall	68	34	2.00
88	Orient	70	35	2.00
89	Doncaster	71	35	2.03
90	Luton	61	30	2.03
91	Charlton	69	32	2.16
92	Exeter	84	37	2.27

(League matches up to and including March 23)

MEAN MACHINE



The Manchester United defence wins again — Gary Bailey punching clear in a dangerous Coventry attack.

GARY IS TORN BETWEEN TWO CLUBS

GARY Owen spoke this week of his tug-of-love between West Brom and Manchester City.

As the former England Under-21 star ended seven months of speculation by signing a new contract at The Hawthorns, he revealed how close he came to signing for his former club.

"I met manager John Benson and he explained that in view of the club's precarious financial position, he couldn't find the cash there and then.

"Despite their problems, there was always the hope in the back of my mind that they would find the money.

"In the end, however, I decided to re-sign for West Brom but it was a hard decision to make because I have a great affection for City and their supporters," says Gary, who began his career at Maine Road and made 103 League appearances for City before moving to the Midlands in June 1979 for £450,000.

But Manchester City weren't the only club courting the highly-rated midfield star — Stoke, Coventry and Second Division promotion chasers Wolves were also in the chase.

Gary admits that he was "very tempted" by the Wolves offer. He says: "I was very impressed with the set-up at Molineux.

"Chairman Derek Dougan has got things right off the field and his manager Graham Hawkins has done likewise on it. They are both determined to make Wolves a First Division force once again."

But after sifting through the offers and talking to the clubs concerned, Gary decided that his future was at The Hawthorns so he signed a new, three-year deal.

"Negotiations were tough and there were a lot of problems along the way," admits Gary: "That's why it took so long to settle.

"The financial side was a small problem. I had other things to consider like the length of contract and what was right for me and my family.

"There was a spell when I thought my future may be away from Albion, but I was always prepared to stay if the terms were right and the strength of the squad wasn't depleted.

"I didn't want to sign a new deal and then see top names like Cyrille Regis and Derek

TUG OF LOVE!

Statham leave the club.

"But Derek, Martyn Bennett and a few of the other lads have now committed themselves for a couple more years and the club are trying to persuade Cyrille to stay.

"The fact that the club are ambitious and want to win things was the main reason why I decided to stay.

"They have shown their determination to win things by splashing out on striker Garry Thompson and goalkeeper Paul Barron. I'm told they are also looking for another two players to strengthen the squad."

Gary believes that the addition of namesake Garry from Coventry for £225,000 could help West Brom clinch a place in Europe.

Following his goal against Birmingham, the former England Under-21 international had scored three times in three games and Gary says: "You can't ask for a better start than that.

"I'm sure that Cyrille and Garry can become a lethal partnership. They could be as good as Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush at Liverpool. You can't get any better than that.

"The rest of this season will be spent getting an

understanding together so if Cyrille stays, they could be a real force to be reckoned with next term.

"Garry likes to play as the target man, whereas Cyrille likes to get on the end of the chances and put them away."

Albion's problems this season have been in front of goal, where they missed the scoring power of Cyrille, who was sidelined with a fractured cheekbone for two months.

But in his first two games back in the side, Albion scored six times — including a 4-0 win over Ipswich at The Hawthorns.

"Cyrille's absence was a factor in our slump, but we've also been besieged by other injuries. We've not been able to field a settled side all season. Most of the players have been out at one stage or another."

One star name that Albion haven't managed to keep is their skipper John Wile. He is due to leave the club and take over as player-manager of Fourth Division Peterborough.

"Obviously we'll miss John because he's been playing as well as ever this season. Players who are 10 or 12 years younger still can't get past

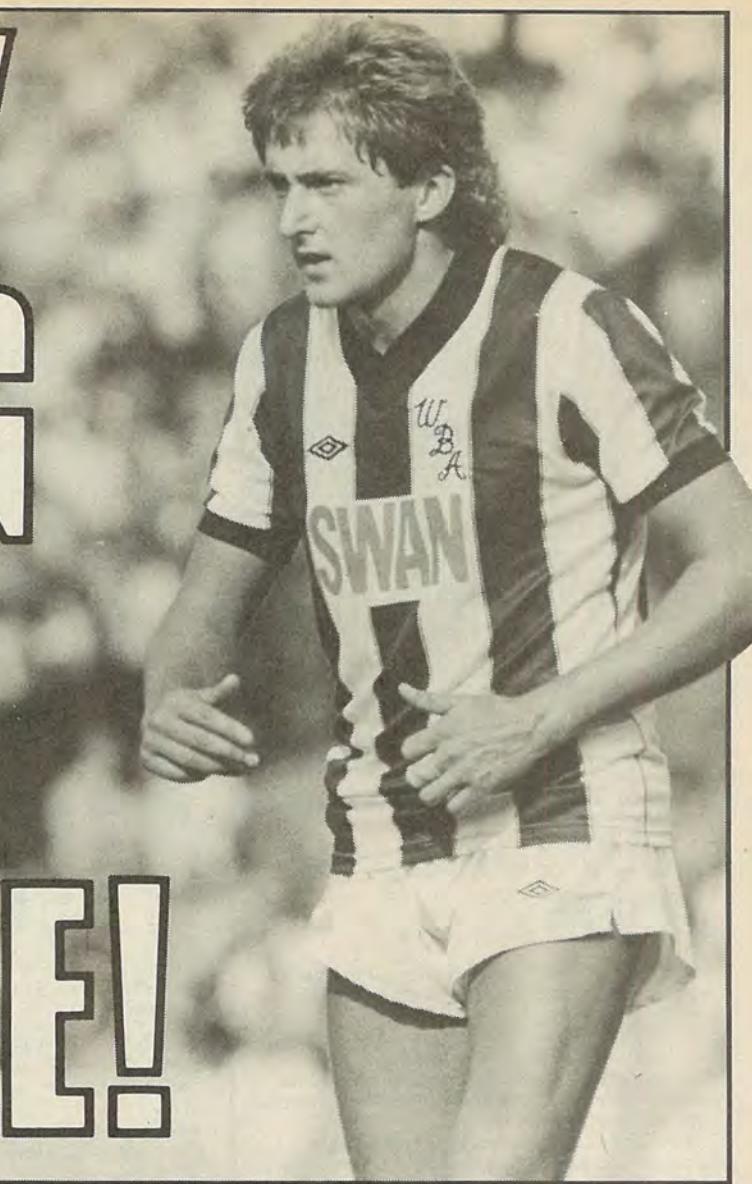
him because he's in such good shape."

With his contract now settled, Gary is going full tilt for a place in the senior England squad.

He admits: "I've been disappointed that I haven't been named in the squad — especially when other members of the England UEFA Under-21 winning team have been included.

"But there's nothing I can do except turn in good performances."

Below: Derek Statham — like Gary Owen, he's staying at West Brom.





MIGHTY MATCHMEN

FORMER Sunderland goalkeeper Jim Montgomery, the 1973 FA Cup Final hero in their 1-0 defeat of Leeds, presents the Match Weekly First Division 'Matchman of the Month' award for January to one of his successors at Roker Park, Chris

Turner (left). Meanwhile, former Sunderland manager Ken Knighton, is pictured (right) presenting his Orient striker Kevin Godfrey with the Third Division award for February.

JUST LIKE JIMMY . . .

THEY'VE been calling Terry Gibson the new Jimmy Greaves down at White Hart Lane this season.

The youngster is similar in build to that goalscoring legend and his burst of goalscoring when he came into the side this season, reminded the faithful of their hero of the sixties and seventies.

But the link goes even deeper than that, because Terry and Jimmy's son Danny, now at Southend, played schoolboy football together and Terry is still a friend of the family.

■ THIRD Division Bristol Rovers are to celebrate their Centenary by playing Tottenham at Eastville on Tuesday, April 19.

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RIX IS SO RELIEVED

WHAT a relief! That was the reaction of Arsenal's Graham Rix to his recall to the England squad for the European Championship clash with Greece last month.

Having been unavailable for the previous match against Wales through club commitments, he wondered whether he would regain his place in the squad.

"With Gordon Cowans having played so well on his debut against Wales and with Alan Devonshire also in the squad, there was always the chance that I would be omitted," he says.

"But, on the other hand, I would have been more than disappointed not to be included with skipper Bryan Robson and Glenn Hoddle out of the reckoning."

"I'm not intending to be big-headed, but I believe I am playing consistently well for Arsenal and I think I'm doing a good job for the team."

■ IPSWICH striker John Linford is certainly making his mark while on loan to Third Division Southend.

John, who was on loan to Colchester earlier in the season, scored in his first three outings for the seasiders!

THE GREAT WAR

PETER Shilton, Gordon Banks, Frank Swift or Pat Jennings — who really was the greatest?

Was George Best fit to be mentioned in the same breath as the legendary Matthews and Finney when it comes to the great wingers?

And could midfield men of the moment Glenn Hoddle and Bryan Robson hold a candle to the likes of Duncan Edwards and Danny Blanchflower?

The arguments that have raged in playgrounds, pubs and football grounds for years were settled at a unique sporting occasion in London last week. Or were they?

It was a marvellous idea from Whitbread, the brewery people to carry out a nationwide poll among 2,000 'fans-in-the-street' to find the greatest British sportsmen of all time.

It produced probably the greatest collection of sporting giants ever to congregate under one roof. Household names packed the giant hall, an autograph hunter's paradise.

Rugby, snooker, athletics, darts, boxing, tennis, horse racing, show jumping, golf, cricket and football were all well represented. But in each case, the arguments will go on . . . and none more so than in football.

The 'Best of the Best' soccer awards were as follows: Goalkeeper — Gordon Banks: full-back — Mick Mills: centre-half/central defender — Bobby Moore: midfield/wing half — Danny Blanchflower: midfield/inside forward — Bobby Charlton: winger — Sir Stanley Matthews: goalscorer/striker — Jimmy Greaves.

● What do you think of the awards? Write and tell us about your 'Best of the Best' and we'll publish the best letters.

THE GOALPOST DEPT. MW

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DAZZLED DANNY!

DANNY Wilson this week labelled himself a little fish in a big sea and admitted he's hooked on Nottingham Forest.

"I'm loving playing with big stars like John Robertson, Ian Bowyer and the rest. It's magic," he told 'Match'.

Twenty-three-year-old Danny captained Third Division Chesterfield before his move to the City Ground. Now he finds himself in a constant battle for a first team place.

"I've never had competition like I've got now — except perhaps when I first came into the game.

"You've got to play well or you don't keep your place — it's as simple as that.

"It's great because it keeps you on your toes both when you are playing and during training throughout the week."

Wilson is wild about Forest

"Everyone is watching you to see what your attitude is like and, with so many good players around, you wonder if you can be as good as them."

Danny, formerly with Wigan and Bury, admits he's finding the First Division tougher than he expected: "I think I've got a lot to learn. I've always wanted to play in the First Division but it's a lot harder than I imagined. It all looks so easy on television!"

The thinking is far quicker and the passing is more accurate. It's a different world but I'm fitting in better now than when I first arrived."

Danny's move all stemmed from a scouting mission undertaken by Chesterfield manager Frank Barlow.

"He was watching Forest reserves and fancied signing Steve Kendal and Calvin Plummer.

"He approached Brian Clough and in turn the Forest manager asked about me.

"I suppose there was a bit of haggling between the two clubs but, for my own part, all Brian Clough had to do was ask me if I wanted to sign and that was it.

"He didn't have to promote the club or himself. I knew everything I wanted to know. Big club, big names — I was already sold."



Danny Wilson — finding the First Division tougher than he expected... but loving every minute.

Danny is currently filling the number seven shirt — following in the footsteps of Martin O'Neill and Mark Proctor.

"People have said it's a hard position to fill but I've just got to try and make it my own.

"I'd play anywhere to stay in the team, however. That's all I'm bothered about. Brian Clough has shown confidence in me and, if I can remain in the side for as long as I'm here, I'll have repaid him."

Danny has already earned himself one sweet memory in a Forest shirt — scoring on his First Division debut against Aston Villa.

"I'm not a great goalscorer so that one will always stick in mind. It will be a bit of nostalgia for when I'm older."

MATCH CHAT

Compiled by Melvyn Beck

FORMER Scotland international Willie Carr has joined Alliance Premier League club Worcester City on a free transfer from Millwall. The tiny midfield player, who joined Millwall from Wolves last season, links up with his former Molineux team mate Phil Parkes who signed for Worcester recently after a spell in America.

Another former international to go non-League is Orient winger Peter Taylor. The former England man, who recently had a spell on loan to Oldham, has joined Maidstone United.

GLASGOW BOYS GO FOR GLORY

MARK Johnstone and Alex Gibson, next door neighbours in the Moodiesburn area of Glasgow, will be out to complete a unique 'double' in the Match Weekly/Subbuteo Scottish National Finals at Hampden Park this Saturday.

Mark bids for glory in the junior section, while Alex battles for senior honours with the chance to represent Scotland in next month's Home International Championships as the main prize in both competitions.

The Match Weekly/Subbuteo Home International Championships are being held at the Butlins Holiday Camp at Filey in Yorkshire over the Bank Holiday weekend of May 28-30.

JUNIOR DRAW: Arron Clinkscales (Penicuik) v Mark Johnstone (Glasgow), Keith Russell (Newport-on-Tay) v Gary Shand (Aberdeen), Derek Higgins (Airdrie) v Keith Marshall (Armadale), Stewart Paterson (Edinburgh) v Bobby Goldie (Coatbridge), Brian Close (Bellshill), v Edward Flett (Stonehaven), Derek Frizzell (Penicuik) v Shaun Campbell (Stonehaven), William Cumming (Airdrie) v John Stephen (Aberdeen), Darren Miller (Dalkeith) v Paul Jerrard (Glasgow).

SENIOR DRAW: Graeme Scott (East Kilbride) v Alex Gibson (Glasgow), Tom McDavid (Glasgow) v Barry Seaton (Penicuik), David Baxter (West Lothian) v John McGiffen (Airdrie), Gordon Fleming (Dundee) v Steven Wallace (Edinburgh).



THE four members of Celtic's 1967 European Cup winning side who still work at Parkhead. Left to right: Bobby Lennox (reserve team coach), Steve Chalmers (pools sales manager), John Clark (assistant manager), and Billy McNeill (manager).

CELTIC HAVE IT TAPE!

ONE of Scotland's most famous teams, Celtic, currently riding high in the Premier League, are also riding high in another league — Scotland's top-selling video cassettes.

The club has released a tape entitled 'The Celtic Story 1888-1967' and, in its first three months, it has been a winner with fantastic sales.

It traces the history of the world-famous Parkhead club up to their ultimate achievement of becoming the first British club to win the European Cup back in 1967.

"Sales figures were amazing. Our target for one year was reached in just under six weeks and we were number one in the Scottish charts for a month," says

a Celtic spokesman.

The film lasts 100 minutes and focuses almost entirely on the 1966-67 season when Celtic won just about every honour in Scottish football, with almost the last third of the tape devoted to the memorable European Cup Final victory over Inter-Milan in Lisbon.

THE PAUL MARINER COLUMN

The Ipswich skipper reveals why he may have played his last game for his country!

MY England career is on the line.

I must face that harsh reality now that I'm out of the international reckoning until next season.

There is no way I'll be fit enough to be considered for England again until next September's European Championship return with Denmark at Wembley.

And, by then, I might be some way down the queue for that number nine shirt.

I'm out of at least two more important internationals and the summer tour to Australia, but I've reached the stage where I can no longer gamble with my career.

I've been told that if I don't rest my damaged Achilles tendon until next season, then I'll be putting my whole soccer career at risk.

That's not a gamble I'm prepared to take, even if it means the end of my England career.

I am prepared to soldier on in the League in the hope of leading Ipswich into Europe next season but, come the middle of May, that will be it until August.

I'm getting through at the moment with the aid of an injection, but both Ipswich and I know that I'm far from 100 per cent fit.

And it would be unfair to England manager Bobby Robson, the team and myself if I tried to hide the truth from them.

Ironically, the injury problem has come at a time when I'm probably playing the best football of my life.

That's why it hurt even more to have to withdraw from the Greece game last week.

But, deep down, I knew I wouldn't be fit enough to do myself justice in an England shirt.

I've now missed the last two European Championship fixtures through injury — including the goal bonanza against Luxembourg.

I felt I had one of my best games for England when we won 3-0 in Greece last November in difficult circumstances and it was doubly frustrating to miss out on the chance of getting some revenge for the stick I received out there.

The injury is a legacy from the operation I had a year ago. I'm simply paying a high price for rushing back in double quick time to play in the World Cup Finals.

But I believe that gamble was worth taking because it has got to be the ambition of every international footballer to play in the World Cup Finals.

I'm not one to make a song and dance about injuries, but the truth of the matter is that I've been playing in some pain for most of the season.

It has got progressively worse with all the wear and tear and I've reached the stage now where I must rest it.

I had an injection at the start of the year and that kept me going for a couple of months, but a visit to the specialist recently confirmed my worst fears.

He told me that if I didn't rest the ankle then, there was a very real danger of snapping the tendon, and that could spell the end of my playing career.

In fact, I should be resting it now, but with so many experienced players having left the

MY ENGLAND CAREER IS THREATENED



club, I feel that as captain I must see the season through.

We have thrown money away for the club with our early exits from the Milk, FA and UEFA Cups, and it's imperative from the financial angle that we qualify for Europe again next season.

Manager Bobby Ferguson has left the decision entirely to me, but I feel I can still do a good job for Ipswich for the next few weeks.

Then, when we have a UEFA place in the bag, I'll put my feet up at my Suffolk farm for the rest of the summer so that hopefully I'll be 100 per cent fit for most of next season.

It would be a tremendous achievement for the club if we qualified again for Europe, and I would be extremely honoured to achieve that distinction in my first season as captain.

I think the added responsibility has made me into a better player because I feel the need to lead the younger players by example.

The youngsters who have come into the team, notably Trevor Putney and Irvin Geron, have done a tremendous job to plug some of the gaping holes left by the departures of class players like Mick Mills, Alan Brazil and Arnold Muhren.

But we have also been without Frans Thijssen, George Burley and Eric Gates for long spells during the season, so we have done well to haul ourselves into the top bracket.

I bear no grudges to the players who have left the club this season. Having spent all those years at Ipswich, the club gave Mick Mills the chance of a lucrative contract elsewhere; Arnold Muhren was at the end of his contract and who could turn down Manchester United?

Alan Brazil had said he wanted to leave the club and now Frans Thijssen, who is also at the end of his contract, is leaving to earn a few dollars in America.

You can't blame people like Arnold and Frans. People must remember that, while a footballer may finish at 35, he still has another thirty years to support a family and I would do the very same thing in their position.

It seems strange playing without Alan Brazil. Over the past few years I have become used to changing alongside him in the dressing room and forging a successful relationship on the pitch.

But while it's a big blow to lose a player like Alan, I'm looking forward to the new challenge of building another striking partnership either with Mich D'Avray or Eric Gates.

Paul Mariner was talking to Melvyn Beck.

MARTIN Thomas looked back this week on his decision to turn down a move to soccer giants Spurs, and revealed: "I was better off at Bristol Rovers."

The young 'keeper had been loaned out to Spurs by the Third Division club and, after three months at White Hart Lane, looked set to sign.

But to the surprise of manager Keith Burkinshaw, the 23-year-old rejected the First Division club's offer and returned to Bristol.

Says Martin: "The money Spurs offered me was about £4,000 a year less than I was earning at Rovers so I reluctantly turned them down."

"I would probably have been playing in the reserves for a couple of years, which was a big enough sacrifice in itself without taking such a drastic cut in wages."

"It was a difficult decision saying 'no' to a big club like Spurs but I had to think of my financial position," he says.

There was another disappointment just around the corner for Martin, who came within a whisker of joining European Champions Aston Villa.

With unsettled 'keeper Jimmy Rimmer looking set to leave the club, Villa desperately needed to find a replacement... and Martin was the leading contender to become deputy to Nigel Spink.

But as he explains, the move never materialised. "I was lined up to replace Jimmy, who was planning to go to America, but at the last minute he decided to honour his contract and so Villa were no longer interested in me."

"It would have been a great

opportunity for me and so I was obviously disappointed when the deal fell through."

But now Martin is hoping to put those setbacks behind him and rebuild his career in the North East with Second Division Newcastle.

The much-travelled 'keeper has signed for 'The Magpies' on loan until the end of the season with a view to a permanent transfer.

Newcastle are the fourth club Martin has been loaned out to this season, following spells at Cardiff, Spurs and Southend.

His travels began when he failed to regain his place in the Bristol Rovers side after injury. "I was out of the game for over a year and, when I came back, Phil Kite had taken over the number one jersey," he says.

"I decided I would try and get away and succeeded in signing for Cardiff on loan for what should have been a whole season."

"But Rovers recalled me after about three months because they felt it was not in their interests for me to be playing for a rival club at the top of the

Third Division."

Martin was back at Eastville in November but, within days, he was on his way to Spurs. He played eight reserve games for the First Division club and made his first team debut shortly before returning to Rovers.

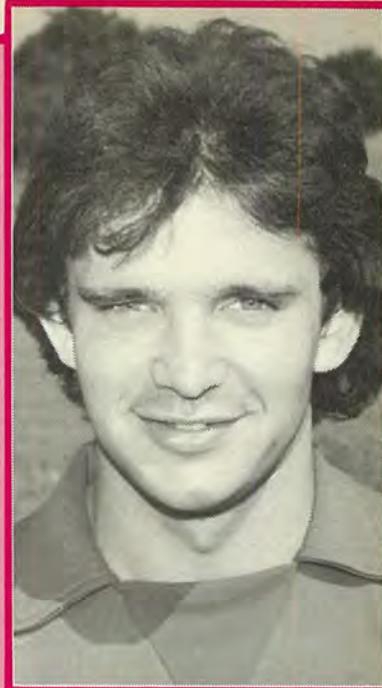
"I thought I did pretty well during my two months at Spurs and would have signed... but the terms weren't right."

And so, in January, Martin was again back at Bristol Rovers... but not for long.

"After a few weeks, I got a phone call from Southend manager, Dave Smith who asked if I could help him out for about six weeks because both his 'keepers were injured," he says.

"I played six games for Southend before going back to Bristol. But, about ten days later, Newcastle came in for me and I had no hesitation in signing until the end of the season."

Right: Martin Thomas — hoping to rebuild his career in the North East.



'WHY I TURNED DOWN SPURS'

Reporter Dave Smith meets Newcastle's 'wandering' star — the goalkeeper who made his way to 'The Magpies' via Cardiff, Tottenham, Bristol Rovers and Southend.

Spot the Dentyne difference and win one of 100 footballs!

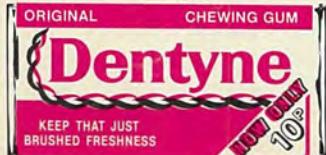


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Now spot the 10 differences in our pictures and you could win one of 100 puncture-proof Combex Super Trainer footballs.

How to enter Simply circle all differences on the right-hand picture. Then, in not more than 10 words, complete the sentence "10p Dentyne is different because..." in an apt, original and humorous way. Fill in your name, age and address; get your Mum or Dad, or Guardian, to sign it; send the form, with the wrappers from any three Dentyne packs, to: The Dentyne Difference, PO Box 90, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5SZ, to arrive by 31 May 1983.

Look out for the Dentyne Trophy Match — Wembley 11 June 1983.



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MW2

Rules: Prizes will be awarded to the entrants who correctly circle all 10 differences: 50 prizes will go to entrants aged 11 or under, entrants between 12 and 15. In the event of a tie, prizes will be awarded to the entrant(s) who complete the most apt, original and humorous sentence. Winners will be notified by 30 June 1983. A complete list of winners will be available from the competition address after 10th July.



UNLIKELY HOT-SHOT

Goal spree surprises Steve

FOURTH Division hot-shot Steve Massey (left) confesses: "I've never really thought of myself as a goalscorer."

Following Northampton's much needed 2-1 win over Scunthorpe, the blond striker had 22 goals to his credit, but he admits: "If I had taken every chance this season I could have had 40!"

The free transfer signing from nearby Peterborough adds: "Goalscoring has never been the most important part of my game. I like to take on defenders and set up chances."

"This season has been a revelation for me. After a couple of unhappy spells at Peterborough and Bournemouth, I've got my confidence back."

"It's great to play for a manager who actually believes in me. That's why I think I've done so well this season."

The 24-year-old admits that when he heard Northampton wanted to sign him, he wasn't keen

on moving to the County Ground.

"Manager Clive Walker was the only reason I joined Northampton. My decision to come here was right, because he's helped give me a new lease of life. He is the best boss I've played under."

"Clive is a player's man. He doesn't set himself up on a pedestal like some managers. If you have a problem it's easy to talk to him."

Steve, who started his League career at Stockport, asked for a move after failing to establish himself in the Peterborough side. He made just 18 League appearances in two years at London Road.

"I felt I deserved a run in the team, but I never got a chance to prove myself," says Steve, who is playing up front alongside former Peterborough team-mate Dave Syrett.

"Dave joined in the close season and we've struck up a good partnership."

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GARY ROWELL

SUNDERLAND

THE former Watford and Sheffield United manager concludes his fascinating series on soccer in the States as he recalls the end of his great American adventure.

MONEY was a problem from day one at Detroit and it got so tight at one stage that we actually put our lives on the line for ten thousand dollars!

We accepted a close-season tour of trouble-torn Guatemala and I'll never forget it.

One of the supposedly more relaxed evenings involved dinner at the home of one of the local landowners.

We ate in grounds surrounded by a sixteen foot high wall with armed guards patrolling inside and out!

It didn't exactly help the digestion but, apart from a host of tummy upsets, we got back alive.

It was while out in Guatemala that I received a message to say that the management were moving the whole team from Detroit to Washington.

We were to become the Washington Diplomats and would play in the J. F. Kennedy Stadium. I had my doubts from the beginning.

The previous Diplomats had folded only a few months before and they were owned by the rich Gulf Oil Company.

Our old sources — Jimmy Hill's company, Coventry City and the American partners — had dried up, but we were led to believe that the move would bring in new money that would ensure the life of the franchise and our jobs for another three years.

It wasn't long before I began to realise that, despite a successful start to the new season, we were once again in trouble.

The promised money disappeared and our problems began to mount.

We just made it to the end of the season but, within matter of weeks, we had gone.

Jimmy Hill somehow managed to pay the last two weeks' wages himself, but even his luck ran out — as well as his money — and, after a month of total confusion, the word came through that we were declaring bankruptcy.

A great American venture was at an end.

Some lost their homes and others their cars and apartments — unable to meet the mortgage repayments. It was a sad end to an ambitious enterprise. Not that we were to be the only ones . . .

Out of the 24 clubs that began the season in 1978, there were now only eleven left and the great dream was fading fast.

Phil Woosnam and Clive Toye, to mention two, are still there — battling away to save the game they love.

And there are thousands of football lovers all over America continuing to work at all levels to promote the sport.

Below: Last days at Washington and a presentation from a young supporter as the cheerleaders prepare to go into their routine.



Children are playing soccer in ever-increasing numbers and there is still a future for the game in the States with so many people prepared to give their time and money.

Certainly America provided me with some unforgettable experiences in the five seasons I was over there.

Imagine holding a coaching clinic in New York's Times Square with thousands of bemused spectators stopping by during their lunch hour to watch some 'crazy' guys kicking and to their amazement actually HEADING the ball!

To do that you've got to be crazy.

It does seem at the present time that the indoor league is attracting a growing number of fans and it may be that in the future it will join forces with the NASL to form one joint organisation playing indoors in the winter and outdoors in the summer.

That may even be a serious pointer towards the road down which English football will have to find its way . . .



Jimmy Hill — his luck ran out eventually . . . and so did his money.

KEN FURPHY'S AMERICA

THE GREAT ADVENTURE ENDS . . .

DOWNTIME DIPLOMATS

I'M a nine-year-old West Ham fan and I'd like a pen pal of my own age. Wayne Staines, 411 Little Wakering Road, Great Wakering, Essex SS3 0LH.

MANCHESTER United, Ipswich and Bayern Munich are among my favourite clubs and I'd like a pen pal from either Italy, West Germany or England. Joanne McMullan (13), 219 Belfast Road, Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland.

I'M a Rotherham United fan and I'd like a pen pal who supports any Football League team. Cliff Rhodes, 52 Sotherby Road, Highbury, London N5.

I'D like a boy pen pal who is my age and follows any Welsh or Scottish teams. My favourite clubs are Spurs and Aston Villa. Paul Youngman (10), Dorchester

Sunnyside, Woodton, Bungay, Suffolk.

I'M a 12-year-old Everton and Bournemouth fan and would like a female pen pal who watches either team. Carl Quayle, 11 Groes Road, Garston, Liverpool L19 9AX.

COLLECTING programmes and supporting Aston Villa are my favourite hobbies. My top bands are Musical Youth, Duran Duran and Madness. I'm 18-years-old and would like a pen pal from anywhere in Britain. Joanne Boffin, 46 Station Road, Higham-on-the-Hill, Nuneaton, Warks CV13 6AG.

Pen pals

MANCHESTER City looked destined for a place in Europe as they entered the second half of the season.

But following a disastrous ten-match spell, when the men from Maine Road picked up just three points, they are now a stone's throw away from relegation.

As striker Kevin Reeves says: "It's incredible to think that not so long ago we were up there challenging for Europe and now we've got to fight to avoid the drop into the Second Division."

Everything looked rosy for Manchester's poor relations' when, just two weeks into the New Year, they were lying in eighth place in the table with a creditable 35 points.

But following a series of crushing defeats, their fortunes have changed dramatically. "We had an appalling run after Christmas and we haven't recovered from it yet," says Kevin.

"Confidence is at a low ebb, but we've got to pull our socks up and fight like hell to stay up. If we can get a couple of wins under our belt, I'm sure we can do it."

Ironically, City have struggled to pick up points since the departure of former-manager John Bond.

But Kevin insists that is no reflection on new boss John Benson. "At the end of the day it's down to the players and we've only ourselves to blame," says the former Norwich player.

"We have failed to find our true form this year, but the fact that we have had so many injuries and suspensions hasn't helped matters."

"We have only had 13 or 14 players to pick from each week and when someone else is injured it's obviously a great strain on resources."

"Paul Power was out for a long time and then Graham Baker, and it's been long term injuries like that, which have upset the rhythm of the side."

The season began on a high note for City, players and officials alike were hopeful of emerging from the shadows of Manchester rivals, United.

Says Kevin: "The atmosphere at the club was great and when we won our opening three games, we were all confident of at least qualifying for Europe."

We were near the top of the table and everything seemed to be going well until the turn of the New Year.

BIG CITY BLUES!

Big City blues! As Manchester United march on as favourites to win the FA Cup and with it a place in Europe, their rivals in blue, Manchester City face only a battle against relegation . . . and it's a fight they appear to be losing.

It's 18 years since the fans saw Second Division football at Maine Road and the burning question now is: Can they halt the slump?

'Match' spoke to striker Kevin Reeves whose goalscoring capability could be a vital factor . . .

"We began to concede far too many goals and to make things worse, myself and the other strikers were not finding the target as often as we should."

"As the season has worn on, there has been more and more pressure on the players to do well and that has probably affected performances."

It's almost ten years since City won a trophy — the League Cup in 1974 — and in recent years the club has failed to live up to the successful sides of the late sixties.

"The present day players are obviously conscious of the tradition of the club and the need to provide success for the fans," says Kevin.

"And because we are expected to do well and win trophies it puts extra strain on players."

Kevin has been at Maine Road for three years, having joined from Norwich for £1m in 1979. He admits that following a relatively successful first, full season with the Manchester club he hoped he would go on to better things.

"In my first full season we reached the Semi-Finals of the League Cup and the Final of the FA Cup," he says. "It was the best season I've had during my career and the future looked very bright.

"But since then things haven't gone so well and the next few weeks could be a telling period."

"It's vital for us to start getting our game together and pick up a few points . . . if we can win a couple of games I'm sure the tide will turn."



Striker Kevin Reeves — "We had an appalling run after Christmas and never recovered."

MAINE ROAD SLIDE

January 15

TOP OF DIVISION ONE

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	24	10	2	0	40	12	6	3	3	19	9	53
Man Utd	24	8	4	0	22	5	4	3	5	11	14	43
Nott'm For	24	9	2	1	23	8	4	2	6	17	23	43
Watford	24	9	2	1	28	7	3	2	7	14	19	40
Coventry	24	9	2	1	21	7	2	3	7	12	23	38
West Ham	24	8	1	3	28	14	4	0	8	14	22	37
Aston Villa	24	9	1	2	27	11	2	1	9	7	22	35
MAN CITY	24	8	3	1	20	10	2	2	8	13	27	35

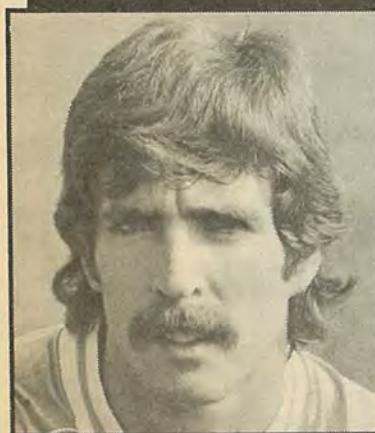
March 26

BOTTOM OF DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MAN CITY	34	8	5	4	23	16	2	3	12	18	43	38
Swansea	33	9	2	5	27	18	0	6	11	16	31	35
Luton	31	4	6	5	25	24	4	4	8	25	40	34
Birmingham	32	7	5	4	24	18	0	7	9	6	26	33
Norwich	32	7	4	5	22	15	1	5	10	13	37	33
Brighton	33	6	7	4	21	18	1	3	12	10	41	31

City had taken just three points from a possible 30 in the ten matches prior to last Saturday . . .

Jan 22	Aston Villa (a)	1-1	(Hartford)
Feb 5	Tottenham (h)	2-2	(Tueart pen, Cross)
Feb 12	Coventry (a)	0-4	
Feb 19	Notts Co (h)	0-1	
Feb 26	Sunderland (a)	2-3	(Caton, Reeves)
Mar 2	Everton (h)	0-0	
Mar 5	Man Utd (h)	1-2	(Reeves)
Mar 12	Swansea (a)	1-4	(McDonald)
Mar 19	Southampton (a)	1-4	(Reeves)
Mar 26	Ipswich (h)	0-1	



Paul Power — injured at a crucial time of the season.

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Circle the differences with a

pen on cartoon B, fill in the entry form, stating your name, address and age, and send it off to: Wembley Competition, Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

The senders of the first two correct entries pulled out of the Match Weekly postbag will win the trip to London, and there'll be 25 runners-up prizes of Match Weekly lapel badges.

Entries must reach us by Friday, April 15 and the results will be announced in our April 30 issue. Good luck!



*Spot the differences
on the cartoons
(right) and you
could be a visitor to
Wembley's twin
towers (above).*

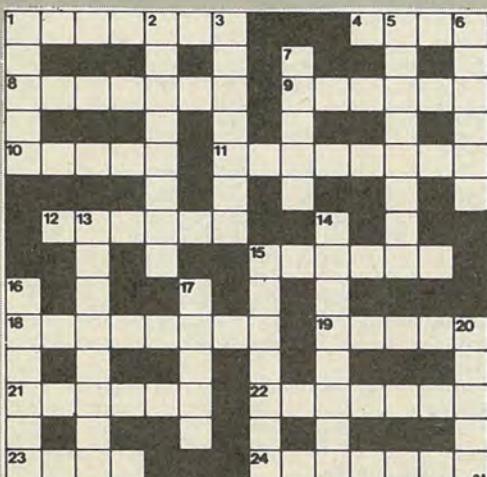
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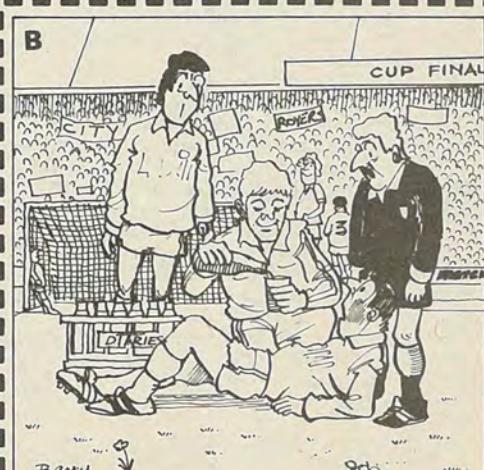
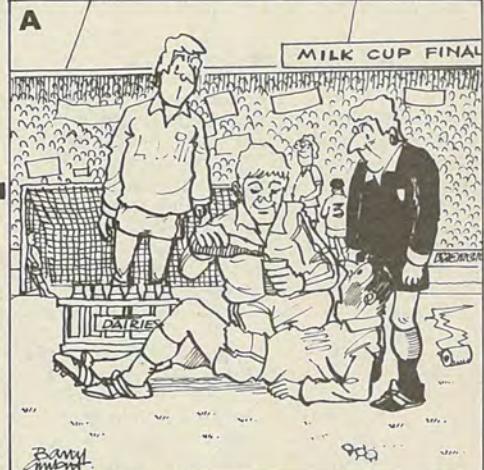
1. The nickname of Bristol Rovers (7)
4. A result which some people wouldn't consider a result! (4)
- 8 & 9. Fourth Division club which reached the fourth round of the FA Cup this year (7,6)
10. The referee is there to see that these aren't broken... (5)
11. ...and these two are there to help him (8)
12. Famous old Leeds, Birmingham and Wales keeper (6)
15. It sounds as if this club could supply plenty of firewood! (6)
18. Like Swansea City's traditional strip (3-5)
19. Was he windy about signing for Birmingham City? (5)
21. 'T. H. King' (anagram) — this defender played over 200 times for Gillingham in the 1970s (6)
22. Match Weekly columnist Ken Furphy was coach of the NASL club — Express (7)
23. One of Derek Dougan's books is called 'The — He Never Wore' (4)
24. 'N. van Odo' (anagram) — this striker began his League career with Grimsby (7)

DOWN

1. One of football's Foxes (5)
2. Obviously a popular day for White Hart Lane fans — it's the day on which Spurs won the FA Cup in 1981 and 1982 (8)
3. Coventry City can be seen in it (3,4)
5. The sponsors of a famous football yearbook (8)
6. A forward who keeps to the touchline — the angle of the attack (6)



7. This Scottish international shared 400 appearances between Manchester United and Preston with a few in the middle for Southampton (5)
13. Chester had two Welsh internationals with this surname in their team last season (8)
14. This club used to be 'United', then it was 'Rangers' and is now 'Albion' (8)
15. Put a team out to play (7)
16. England keeper whose name is an anagram of 12 across (6)
17. The minimum width of the pitch (in yards) (5)
20. The first name used by Watford's chairman (5)



Name

Address

Age

SCOTS ON THE ROCKS

SCOTLAND are fighting a hopeless cause in the European Championship and we've only got ourselves to blame.

It's now a question of relying on other countries in our group to drop points and realistically that's just not on. We're as good as out of the competition.

Once again, we gave away two ridiculous goals and left ourselves a mountain to climb against Switzerland at Hampden Park.

It's getting to outrageous proportions because it's becoming standard procedure for us to give our opponents a head start. It's as if we practise it.

The four goals we have conceded against the Swiss in the Championship have all been mistakes from set pieces. They would never have been allowed at club level.

It's obvious that we don't spend enough time on that aspect of our game. The Swiss were better prepared — they had spent more time together than us and knew where their players were.

Having said that, they were silly goals and I must admit I was surprised when the referee allowed Switzerland's first. It was obvious that our goalkeeper Jim Leighton was fouled.

My Aberdeen team-mate was being held down as Andre Egli headed into the net after 15 minutes. I thought a free-kick was a formality but the referee never blinked.

We got back into the game with a brilliant goal from John Wark and five minutes later Charlie Nicholas scored another fantastic goal. In the end, I thought we were unlucky not to win.

Kenny Dalglish had a couple of chances and I saw my shot come off the bar. A couple of players didn't bother going for the rebound because they were certain it was a goal.

The players were very disappointed in the dressing room at the end of the game. It was as if our European Championship jinx had struck again. We can qualify for World Cup Finals but, when it comes to this competition, we never seem to do well.

It's a pity we had to go out this way because I believe Scotland have played some of their best football in these qualifiers.

There were some very encouraging aspects from the game — and I was impressed with Celtic striker Charlie Nicholas on his debut.

He spent the first half too far up front but, after the interval, he played really well and didn't show any signs of nerves at all.

Dundee United defender Richard Gough also had a good debut, although he admitted after the game he'd found it completely different to anything he'd experienced before.

Another pleasing thing is that we are at least making goalscoring chances for ourselves and that's very important.

Now Group One looks to be between Belgium and Switzerland and I'm going for the Belgians to qualify for a place in the Finals.

Although the Swiss have some very talented players — notably Claudio Sulser and goalscorer Heinz Hermann — Belgium are stronger as a unit.

It wasn't a good night for England either and I was very surprised to hear that they'd been held to a 0-0 draw by the Greeks at Wembley. I had expected them to win by a couple of goals.

THE GORDON STRACHAN COLUMN

The Aberdeen ace gives his exclusive views on Scotland's European Championship defeat. Don't miss his column — every fortnight.

But it just goes to show how difficult it is to score against a team that puts ten players behind the ball. It doesn't matter what standard the opposition are if they pack their defence.

Now I've got to forget about the European Championship disappointment and concentrate on helping Aberdeen beat Rangers in a vital Premier Division fixture at Ibrox.

The title race is very interesting now with just one point separating the top three following our 1-0 defeat at home to St. Mirren on Easter Saturday.

That shock result gave Celtic a second chance to catch us up and they duly took it with a 3-0 win at home to Motherwell. And Dundee United also came back into the picture with a 3-1 win over Rangers!

The win at Morton showed just how determined we are to take the title off Celtic. We were a goal down with less than ten minutes to go and yet we still took the points thanks to goals from Eric Black and Andy Watson.

There will be a big crowd for the game against Rangers, especially as the team have picked up a couple of wins recently.

They may not be winning in classic style but at least they are getting the points and that's provided some cheer for their supporters.

Rangers surprised everyone by signing big striker Sandy Clark. It's a funny move because I thought he was doing so well down at West Ham.

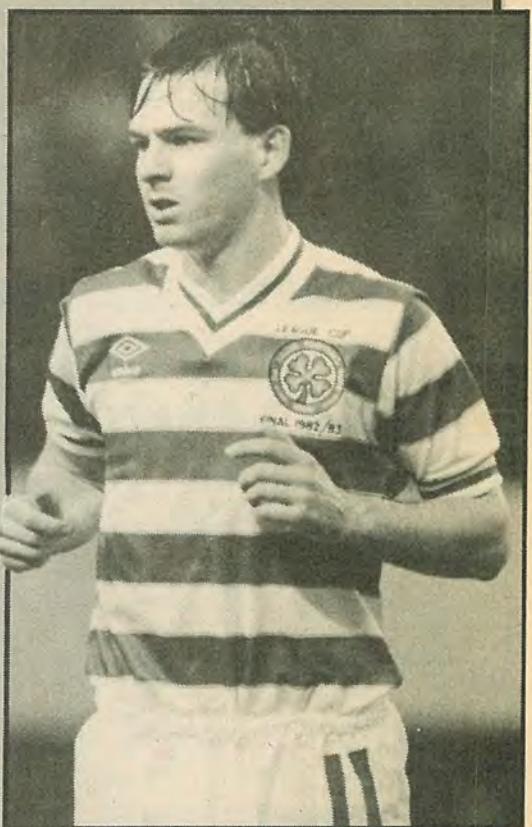
John Greig has been looking for someone like Sandy for a long time, however, and he's a wise investment because as well as being a good player, he also provides height, weight and bustle up front.

Sandy could have been an Aberdeen player this season. We tried to sign him from Airdrie last year but the clubs couldn't agree the fee.

The following Saturday we go to Hampden Park for our Scottish Cup Semi-Final meeting with Celtic. It would have made a classic Final.

The game will be so finely balanced that I'd hate to put money on the eventual winners, but at least we have the psychological advantage of having a good record in Glasgow against Celtic. I'm just hoping we can keep it up.

See you in two weeks ...



Top: Gordon Strachan — "Certain I'd scored — but it hit the bar." Above: Celtic's Charlie Nicholas — a goalscoring debut for Scotland against the Swiss. His performance was one of the encouraging things to come out of the game.

Gordon Strachan was talking to Anthony Hawkswell.



SWOPPED! Andy Ritchie — the biggest gamble of his soccer career.

'My biggest gamble'

— Andy Ritchie

NEW Leeds striker Andy Ritchie spoke this week of his decision to sacrifice the chance of FA Cup glory with Brighton and declared: "I hope they make it to the Final."

Leaving the Goldstone Ground was the biggest gamble of his soccer career, with Brighton on the brink of their first Wembley appearance.

And Andy told 'Match': "No doubt I would feel a little twinge to see Brighton walking out at Wembley, but if they were facing Manchester United I would have mixed feelings anyway because I still have a soft spot for them.

"People will probably think I'm foolish but there's no guarantee Brighton will reach Wembley.

"I know from experience that the lads probably face the hardest game of their lives against Sheffield Wednesday in the Semi-Finals," says Andy, who came on as substitute in Manchester United's Semi-Final victory over Liverpool four years ago.

"Joining Leeds was a big decision to make and I had to weigh up the situation from every possible angle," says the 22-year-old who once scored a hat-trick against Leeds for United.

"In the end I felt I couldn't take a

gamble on getting to Wembley and possibly passing over the chance of playing regular first team football in a winning team and being generally happy with my football and my future."

Andy feels his departure from the First Division will only be a temporary one.

"Leeds are too big to stay in the Second Division for very long. It's a club with a lot of tradition and it's all geared up for the First Division.

"I was very impressed with the attitude of player-manager Eddie Gray. He's very enthusiastic about the future of the club and he was very honest.

"I admire honesty in a manager, and I hope I can be honest with him in the future.

"I believe that big things are just around the corner for Leeds. There's still an outside chance they could make it back to the First Division this season, but if they don't, I'm sure they will achieve it next season with the minimum of effort."

The move to Leeds came right

out of the blue with Andy expecting to be at Brighton until at least the end of the season.

"I was surprised when I learned from manager Jimmy Melia that he was prepared to let me go in an exchange deal," says Andy, who was valued at £500,000 when he joined Brighton two and a half years ago.

"When there was talk about Coventry being interested in me a few weeks earlier, he told me he wouldn't be letting any players go until Brighton were out of the Cup.

"Then, with the Semi-Final just a few weeks away, he allowed me to move to Leeds. I think that's what surprised me most about the deal."

"I wasn't on the transfer list, but most of the Brighton squad were available because of the club's financial situation."

Now, there is the possibility that Andy will be coming face to face with Brighton next season in the Second Division, although he feels the seafarers' have the players to escape relegation.

SWOPPED!

Swap shop! 'Match' spotlights the big deal involving strikers Terry Connor and Andy Ritchie.

YOUNG Brighton striker Terry Connor faces a grim First Division relegation battle for the second successive season.

Last year it was with home town club Leeds . . . and they lost it.

Now it's with FA Cup Semi-Finalists Brighton, but this time the black forward believes he'll be on the winning side.

"I feel more confident about Brighton's chances of staying up than I did about Leeds prospects at this time last year," he says.

"The players at Leeds were very down and despondent last season, but when I watched Brighton hold champions Liverpool to a draw, I could see a lot of hope.

"There's a lot of spirit and talent in the club, and I feel they are in a false position near the bottom of the table.

"I hope I can play my part in helping the club climb away from the danger zone.

"I certainly don't relish the prospect of being relegated from the First Division in successive seasons."

But the truth of the matter is that Terry, who joined the Elland Road staff straight from school four years ago, didn't want to leave his beloved Leeds.

He had been told by new manager Eddie Gray at the start of the season that he was part of the Leeds future, and a move from the Second Division club was the furthest thing from his mind.

"It came like a thunderbolt when Eddie Gray called me in and told me Brighton were interested in a possible exchange deal, involving myself and Andy Ritchie.

"I didn't sink home for a start that I could be leaving my home town club, where I thought I was going to play a part in the rebuilding process.

'I didn't want to leave Leeds'

— Terry Connor

"But it was obvious that Eddie was keen on Andy Ritchie and it was only natural that one of the strikers had to make way for him.

"Naturally I was very disappointed. I had been a regular in the team since Christmas and I felt I was playing well.

"But the manager has a job to do and he is aiming to rebuild the club so in the circumstances one has to respect his wishes.

"I didn't want to leave Leeds, but my future was at stake and it was only right that I went down to Brighton to see whether I would like the place.

"I was immediately struck by Jimmy Melia's ambitious attitude and I found the staff and players very friendly.

"I'm keen to do well at Brighton. I'm not down here to waste three years of my life.

"I've always had confidence in my ability and I want to try and help Brighton achieve some success.

"If I'm playing well and Brighton stay in the First Division, then it could boost my chances of international recognition."



SWOPPED! Terry Connor — faces the prospect of being relegated to Division Two for the second successive season.



Above: Former Wednesday favourite Terry Curran — one of the main reasons he went out on loan to Everton this season was financial.

Bramall Lane — this will be the stage for top class football if Ian Porterfield has his way.



TRICKY TONY'S PROMOTION BID

TONY Towner expected to end the season celebrating promotion to the First Division with Wolves.

The tricky winger — rated by Wolves chairman Derek Dougan as one of the best in the country — had agreed terms with manager Graham Hawkins and was looking forward to helping the club regain their place in the top flight.

But the move suffered a last-minute hitch when the two clubs couldn't agree terms and that paved the way for Ian Porterfield to clinch a transfer deadline day deal.

"I was disappointed when the signing didn't go ahead because I wanted to join Wolves. I was very impressed with the set up."

Tony has joined Sheffield United on loan until the end of the season and he says: "I'm ambitious to play in the First Division so I suppose this move looks like a step in the wrong direction."

"But I needed a change and Rotherham needed some new faces. Kevin Arnott has gone in exchange so that deal has worked

IAN Porterfield believes he's got the hardest job in football.

The former Sunderland FA Cup Final hero is the man entrusted with the awesome task of leading the famous Yorkshire club back into the First Division.

And he admits: "It took just six years for United to plummet from the First to the Fourth, it's going to be a lot harder for them to reclaim their place in the top flight.

"Rome wasn't built in a day. Getting back to the top is a gradual process," adds Ian, who shot to fame when he scored the FA Cup Final winner for Second Division Sunderland against then mighty Leeds at Wembley in 1973.

Under his leadership, United have already made the first tentative steps towards recovery. Last season they sailed away with the Fourth Division Championship.

Ian is rightly proud of the achievement. "The lads did tremendously well and won the

Championship with style and passion.

"They lost just four of their 46 games and became the first United side to lift a title for 30 years. And we were unbeaten at home for the first time in 100 years.

"United's position was similar to Rotherham's when I took over. The Millmoor club were fighting against relegation to the Fourth Division. Just over a year later we'd lifted the Championship."

It would have been easy for Ian to have refused the Bramall Lane job because the future looked bright at Millmoor.

And he admits: "When I arrived, Sheffield United had just been relegated to the Fourth Division for the first time in their history and the place was like a soccer graveyard. People were disappointed and disillusioned.

"But I came here because Sheffield United is a big club and I wanted to help get them back

where they should be — in the First Division.

"I'm totally committed to that cause. I'll move mountains to get United to the top," says Ian.

Another reason the former Wednesday favourite decided to take over the ailing giant, was the club chairman Reg Brearley. Ian says: "He was the one bonus about the club and one of the main reasons why I came here. The love of his life is Sheffield United."

After storming out of the Fourth Division the fans made United favourites to repeat the trick — especially after Ian had signed up star names such as Terry Curran from Wednesday and Alan Young.

"It's been a funny season for us. We started off so well and then suddenly went through a slump," says Ian, who started his playing career in Scotland with Raith.

"We suffered a big disappointment before the start of the season when goalkeeper Keith

MEN OF Porterfield is committed to



Tony Towner — expected to be helping Wolves into Division One but finds himself on loan to Sheffield United.

STRIKER Alan Young describes his first season at Bramall Lane as "terrible".

The Scot, who moved from Leicester for £200,000 just before the campaign kicked off, says: "It's been a frustrating time for both myself and the team."

United stormed out of the Fourth Division as Champions last season and were strongly fancied for promotion again this year. And while they haven't counted themselves out of the hunt yet, they must now be rank outsiders to go up.

On top of United's unpredictable form, Alan has been plagued by a series of niggling injuries which have seen him in and out of the side.

"I've been battered to death with injuries this season. It's been one thing after another," says Alan, whose problems have included a dislocated shoulder, pulled hamstring and two separate ankle injuries.

"It did get to me at one stage before I pulled myself together and decided there was no point going around with a long face and feeling sorry for myself."

"I've also found it hard to adjust to the football. I've played all my career in the First and Second Division so this level is completely new to me."

And Alan admits he's finding the going tougher: "In the Third Division, players hit you hard — they go right through you. It's not as physical at the top, because you are up against better players and more organised teams."

"When you suffer a poor start, the fans begin to ask why the club paid so much money for you."

"But they can shout and bawl at

SPOTLIGHT ON SHEFFIELD UNITED

Bidding for the big time! Focus on Sheffield United — the 'Blades' of Bramall Lane. Anthony Hawkswell reports . . .

Waugh broke his collarbone. "I brought in reserve Steve Conroy, who's been at the club for a long time. I gave him the opportunity but unfortunately it didn't work out. We lost a few silly games and points."

The major crisis came in October when the club suffered severe financial difficulties and Ian says: "On the money side things got extremely tight."

"I was forced to get rid of players on loan and concentrate on cutting costs to the bone. In the

end I was spending more time on general office work than I was on the training field."

"That just wasn't good enough for me because I'm a great believer in being with the players every day."

"One of the main reasons Terry Curran was allowed to go out to Everton on loan in mid-season was financial."

Ian has never been afraid to delve into the transfer market and, at the beginning of the season, he brought five new players to

Bramall Lane. Not all have lived up to expectations.

The biggest snip looked to be midfielder Kevin Arnott on a free transfer from Sunderland, but the player hasn't fitted in at United and has spent much of the season on loan.

On transfer deadline day Ian exchanged him for winger Tony Towner from Rotherham until the end of the season.

"Kevin is a tremendous player with lots of ability. He's a top drawer First Division player who hasn't really been able to adjust to the Third," says Ian.

Another midfielder, Ray McHale — a £10,000 signing from Barnsley — has also failed to establish himself in the side. "We watched Ray a lot last season and he's a very good player. Unfortunately he

just hasn't fitted in," says Ian.

While Ray and Kevin have struggled at Bramall Lane, Michael Henderson has proved to be a smash hit this season. The free transfer signing from Cardiff has enjoyed a successful run in midfield after being switched from right-back.

"Michael's form has been encouraging and I've also been pleased to see youngsters like Gary Brazil, and Gary West breaking into the side."

"They were in the youth team last season and it's marvellous to see that produce dividends," says Ian.

Sheffield United are ambitious both on and off the pitch. As well as bidding for a place in the First Division, the club are keen to develop their Bramall Lane Ground into a massive sports complex.

"It would be one of the best in Europe and take a financial load off the club. In this day and age we've got to look at other ways of raising money. The turnstiles are not enough."

The development — which is expected to cost between £15 and £18m — has been refused planning permission by the local council, but the club are considering an appeal against the decision.

STEEL 'Blades' success

INJURY JINX HITS YOUNG

me as much as they like. It doesn't affect me in the slightest. In fact I'd prefer them to have a go at me rather than the rest of the team."

"There's no such thing as pressure to me. I'm paid to score goals and it's a job I've always enjoyed."

Alan surprised many people when he dropped down into the Third Division to join the Yorkshire club. He explains: "I wanted to win another Championship medal. I felt I could do that here."

"I won a Second Division medal with Leicester in 1979-80 and it was a great feeling. I wanted to taste that success again."

"I wouldn't have joined any other club in the Third Division. Sheffield United are a big time set up and have incredible support."

"It's all very well people talking about the vast potential at Sheffield United but the fact of the matter is that we are still a Third Division club. It's up to the players to change that."

"There's no doubt that we have the facilities to compete with the very best, but we've got to earn

that right."

Looking back on his transfer, Alan admits that he became disillusioned with life at Filbert Street following the shock resignation of manager Jock Wallace. He says: "That was the final straw. I was very sad to see him go."

"After having a chat with new boss Gordon Milne it seemed to me that he was more like an accountant than a manager. It was as though he was more concerned with getting the books right."

"I'm ambitious and I felt that the potential at Leicester was being milked."

Ironically it's been Leicester who have made the stronger bid for promotion and Alan says: "It's great to see them doing so well."

"I've got some very fond memories of my days there," adds Alan, who joined Leicester from Oldham for £200,000 in July 1979.

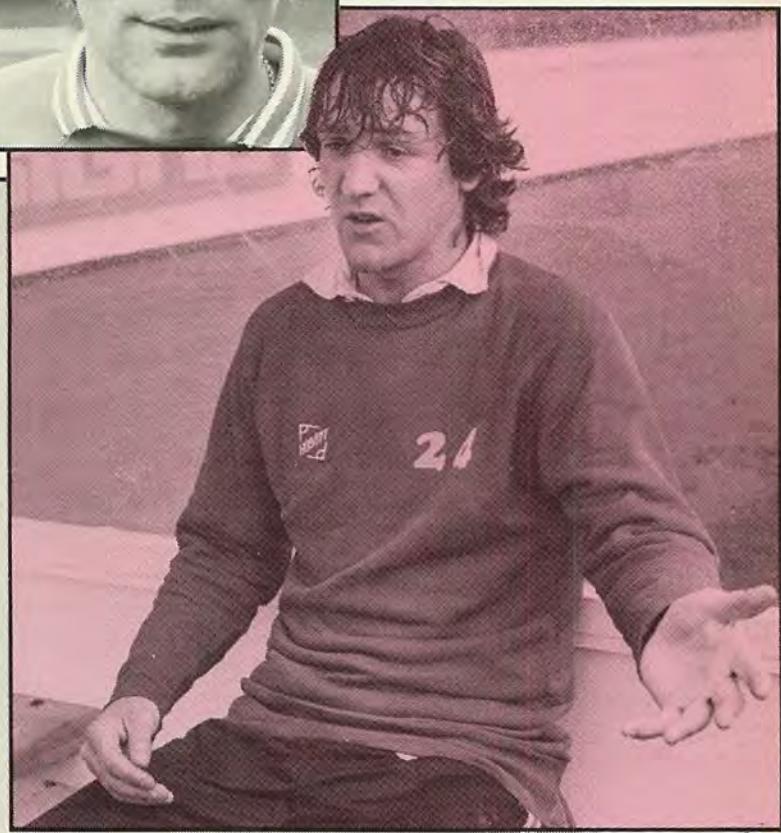
"I learned a lot of good habits at Leicester under Jock Wallace — the sort of things you never forget. He liked his players to eat, sleep and live well."

"Training was very hard — it was 100 per cent all the time. His philosophy was that if you trained and worked hard in midweek it would be reflected in your performance on a Saturday."

"That's why everyone wanted to win every sprint, five-a-side game and be the best at circuit training. He instilled a competitive spirit."

This season Sheffield United have had to live in the shadows of city rivals, Wednesday, who have captured the headlines by reaching the FA Cup Semi-Finals.

"Wednesday's success is the biggest incentive we could possibly have for going up this



Alan Young — "terrible" season.

Inset: Ian Porterfield — "I'll move mountains to get United back to the top flight."

season.

"The rivalry between the two sets of fans in Sheffield is unbelievable. I've never experienced anything like it."

"We haven't given up hope of promotion. There are plenty of points to be won. We won't stop striving to go up until it's mathematically impossible."

"I'm disappointed that United aren't higher in the League, but if we don't go up this time I'll be betting on us to do it next season."

"If we get promotion the crowds at Bramall Lane next season would be incredible. Rotherham, Leeds, Burnley, Derby and Leicester are all quite near. Those games would be like local derbies."

"We've had a couple of problems this season — the major one being that we haven't been able to field a settled side."

"And when we had a full strength side not enough of the players hit form together. When we do, we can take on all-comers."

HAM



ON the night England suffered a Greek tragedy at Wembley, it was left to Scotland to provide tingling excitement with an heroic two-goal fightback to claw themselves back from the jaws of death against Switzerland.

Scotland's hopes of reaching next year's European Championship Finals in France were fading into oblivion, as the Swiss rolled towards a shock 2-0 victory at Hampden Park.

But Jock Stein's braves refused to surrender without a fight despite being floored by two sucker punches from set pieces.

In a last desperate fling to salvage some pride and glory, John Wark and debut boy Charlie Nicholas conjured up magical goals to breathe fresh life into Scotland's dying hopes.

Ipswich's John Wark raised Hampden hearts twenty minutes

from time with a goal right out of his top drawer, a typical ghosting run into the danger zone and a superb sweeping right foot shot into the top corner.

And what a crowning moment it was for Celtic's 'Bonnie Prince' Charlie as he cheekily lobbed home a dramatic equaliser five minutes later.

But, while cheers rang round the Hampden terraces, Wembley reverberated to a chorus of boos as England trudged off after failing to find the invention or penetration to slice through a packed Greek defence.

However, while Scotland have to live in hope, England are still in poll position in their qualifying group with a more realistic chance of spending next summer in France.

● European Championship details in Match Facts — page 23.



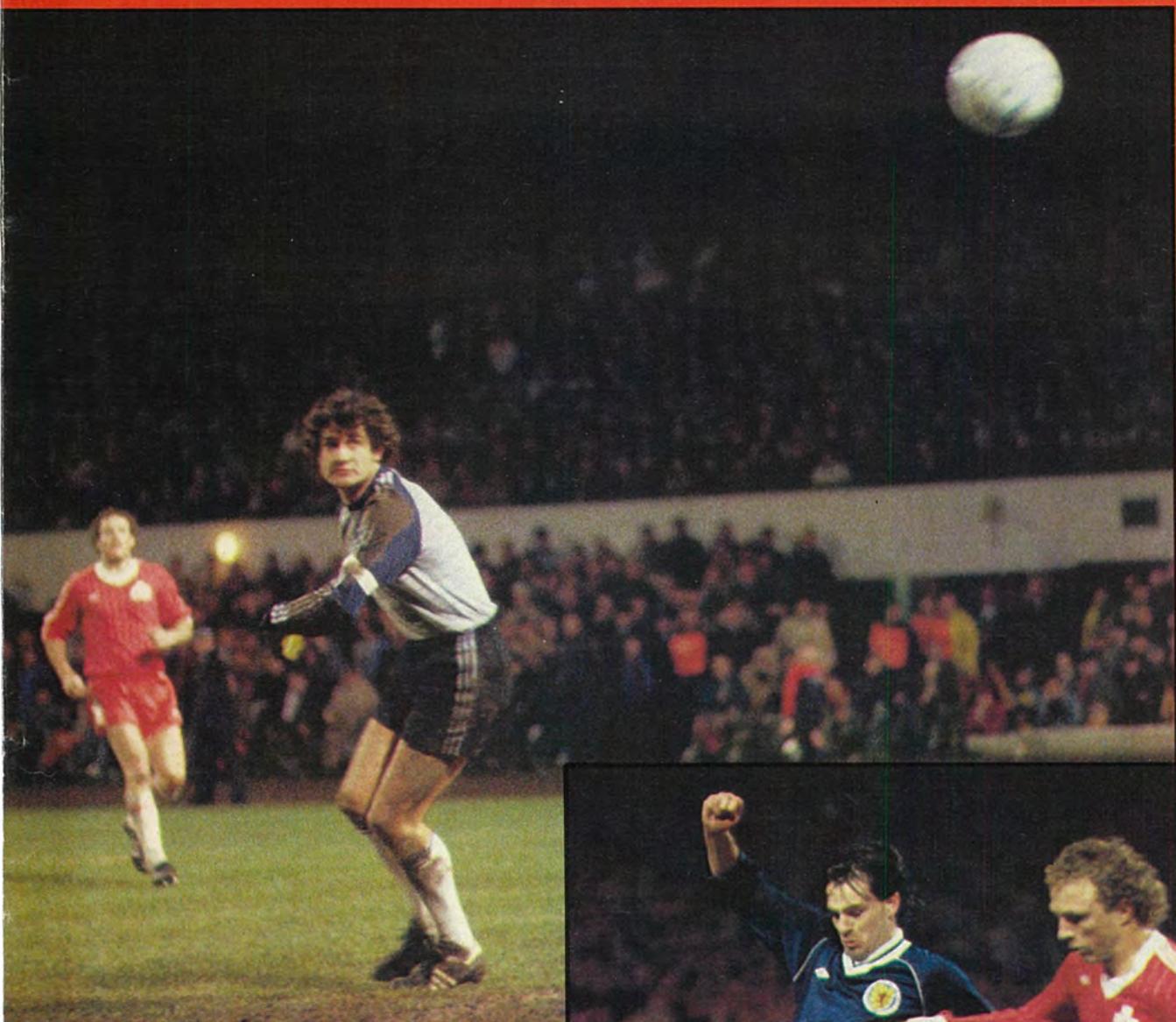
WEMBLEY ZEROES

LEFT: Greek hero Saganis comes to his side's rescue once again, clutching this shot with defender Michos in support.

RIGHT: England's Tony Woodcock tries to inspire another raid on the Greek goal as defender Michos attempts to block his route.



MPDEN HEROES



FAR LEFT: Swiss forward Lucien Favre (7) clears a shot from Kenny Dalglish (8) off the line with goalkeeper Erich Burgener beaten. Scotland's Charlie Nicholas looks on in hope.

LEFT: Ipswich's John Wark begins the Scottish revival with a brilliant goal, sending a falling drive over the head of bemused Swiss 'keeper Erich Burgener, who can only look back in horror.

BOTTOM RIGHT: New Scottish cap Charlie Nicholas is challenged by Swiss defender Heinze Luedi, but he had the final say with Scotland's 75th minute equaliser.



STAR CHALLENGE

GARY Mabbutt's first season in the top flight looked like bringing him a winners' medal of some kind.

But the Spurs' and England star has seen his chances slip away... one by one.

"It's been disappointing in a way, because we had such high hopes of lifting a trophy," says the former Bristol Rovers player.

"Our main priority was the League, but we felt we could perhaps retain the FA Cup and possibly do well in Europe."

"But we've missed out on everything and now all we have to fight for is a place in Europe. Despite the disappointments I've still enjoyed my first season at Spurs."

Gary believes that the main reason for Spurs' lack of success has been the cruel batch of injuries the club has suffered.

"We have a tremendous squad and, although we have always had

excellent replacements when a player has been injured, we have been unable to keep a settled side," he says.

Spurs have what must be considered one of the strongest squads in the country and it has been strengthened still further by the signing of Scottish international Alan Brazil from Ipswich.

"He is a tremendous player and made an impressive debut for us against Watford," says Gary. "I'm sure he'll settle in quickly and do a great job for the club."

Spurs travel to Nottingham Forest on Saturday looking for points to bolster their claims for a European place.

"We need to start stringing a few results together," says Gary, who is this week's guest on 'Star Challenge'.

Gary has been challenged by Tottenham fan Rita Reynolds, of West Dulwich, London. Both have predicted the scorelines of ten



GARY MABBUTT IS THIS WEEK'S STAR GUEST

First Division games and points are awarded according to the accuracy of the forecasts.

If Rita manages to score more points than the Spurs midfielder, she will be presented with a special 'Star Challenge' certificate.

But win, lose or draw, she will still receive a personally autographed picture of Gary.

If you would like to take part in 'Star Challenge', all you have to do is write in, enclosing your name, age and address — together with a black and white photograph of yourself — and most importantly your home phone number.

And don't forget to tell us your favourite team and player. Write to: 'Star Challenge', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

FIXTURES

Saturday, April 9
DIVISION ONE

- Arsenal v Coventry
- Birmingham v Norwich
- Brighton v Everton
- Ipswich v Notts Co
- Liverpool v Swansea
- Luton v Aston Villa
- Man Utd v Southampton
- Nottingham F v Spurs
- Stoke v Man C
- West Brom v Watford
- West Ham v Sunderland

DIVISION TWO

- Barnsley v Cambridge
- Bolton v Sheff Wed
- Burnley v Leeds
- C Palace v Carlisle
- Fulham v Charlton
- Middlesbro' v Derby
- Newcastle v Blackburn
- Oldham v Chelsea
- QPR v Leicester
- Rotherham v Wolves

DIVISION THREE

- Bournemouth v Chesterfield
- Cardiff v Doncaster
- Gillingham v Newport
- Huddersfield v Plymouth
- Millwall v Lincoln
- Oxford v Orient
- Portsmouth v Bradford
- Sheffield United v Wigan
- Walsall v Bristol R

DIVISION FOUR

- Aldershot v Bury
- Bristol C v Rochdale
- Hartlepool v Chester
- Hull v Blackpool
- Peterborough v Swindon
- Torquay v Crewe
- Wimbledon v Darlington
- York v Colchester

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

- Dundee v Kilmarnock
- Hibs v Celtic
- Motherwell v Morton
- Rangers v Aberdeen
- St Mirren v Dundee Utd

FIRST DIVISION

- Ayr v Dunfermline
- Clyde v Alloa
- Falkirk v Clydebank
- Hamilton v Partick
- Queen's Park v Airdrie
- Raith v Dumfarton
- St Johnstone v Hearts

SECOND DIVISION

- Arbroath v E Stirling
- Berwick v Stirling
- Brechin v Albion
- Cowdenbeath v QoS
- Meadowbank v Montrose
- Stenhousemuir v East Fife
- Stranraer v Forfar

Sunday, April 10 DIVISION FOUR

- Northampton v Halifax

Tuesday, April 12 DIVISION ONE

- Coventry v Liverpool
- Luton v Birmingham

DIVISION THREE

- Doncaster v Orient
- Millwall v Bristol R
- Preston v Sheff Utd

DIVISION FOUR

- Colchester v Port Vale
- Darlington v Blackpool

Wednesday, April 13 DIVISION TWO

- Derby v Charlton

● Fixtures correct at time of going to press.



Spurs and England star Gary Mabbutt (left) and his challenger Rita Reynolds, of West Dulwich, London.

● CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy Armon of Ulverston, Cumbria, who beat Alan Devonshire 2-0 in 'Star Challenge' on March 26th.

Here are the ten selected matches for this week, together with the predictions of a lucky 'Match' reader and his famous opponent.

There's space for you to fill in your predictions and a column for the

actual result.

Award two points for every correct score and one point if the result is correct (i.e. home win, away win, draw), but the scoreline is wrong.

	Rita's forecast	Gary's forecast	Your forecast	Result
Arsenal v Coventry	3-1	2-0		
Birmingham v Norwich	1-1	1-2		
Brighton v Everton	2-1	1-1		
Ipswich v Notts Co	2-1	2-1		
Liverpool v Swansea	3-0	3-0		
Luton v Aston Villa	2-3	2-2		
Man Utd v Southampton	2-0	3-1		
Stoke v Man City	0-1	1-1		
West Brom v Watford	1-2	1-2		
West Ham v Sunderland	1-2	2-0		

MATCH FACTS MATCH FACTS

THE attendance at the Bournemouth v Newport Third Division fixture (published in Match) should have read 9,121.

Sunday, Mar. 27

Division Three

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Neal 13, Stewart 82)
WIGAN (0) 0
Att: 2,772
Millwall: Wells 6, Lovell 6, Stride 7, White 7, Nutton 6, Cusack 7, Bremner 8, Neal 7.
★**STEWART** 9, Olukowski 5, Chatterton 6.
Wigan: Tunks 5, McMahon 6, Cribley 7, Butler 6, Bradd 6, Methven 7, Sheldon 7, Shaw 6, (sub, O'Keefe 6), Houghton 7.
★**LLOWE** 8, Glenn 6.
Referee: A. W. Grey (Great Yarmouth)
Match Rating: ★★★

Monday, Mar. 28

Division Four

MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Caldwell 53)
CREWE (0) 0
Att: 2,245
Mansfield: Arnold 6, ★**BLACKHALL** 8, Kearney 6, Matthews 6, Bird 6, Calderwood 5, Woodhead 5, Rhodes 6, Dungworth 5, Caldwell 6, Nicholson 6.
Crewe: Smith 6, Brady 5, Bowers 6, Edwards 7, Scott 6, Hart 5, Haslegrave 5, Bancroft 6, Waller 6, Walker 5, ★**CLIFF** 8.
Referee: A. Saunders (Newcastle-on-Tyne)
Match Rating: ★★★

Tuesday, Mar. 29

Division Three

BRISTOL ROVERS (2) 2 (Williams, B pen 24, Platnauer 41)
SCHEFFIELD UNITED (0) 1 (Trussell 60)
Att: 6,595
Bristol Rovers: Kite 7, Sherwood 7, Williams, B 6, Williams, G 7, Parkin 6, McCaffery 7, Ball 6, Puls 6, Withey 6, Randall 6 (sub, Stephens 7). ★**PLATNAUER** 8.
Sheff Utd: Waugh 7, Smith 6, ★**GARNER** 8, Henderson 7, West 6, Houston 6, Morris 7, Trussell 6, King 5 (sub, Brazil 6), Young 6, Curran 6.
Referee: B. Daniels (Brentwood)
Match Rating: ★★★

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 4 (Lillis 41, Cowling 54, Harvey 61, Stanton 66)
WREXHAM (1) 1 (Hill 28)
Att: 9,519
Huddersfield: Cox 7, Brown 7, Burke 7, Stanton 7, Sutton 7, Hanvey 7, Lillis 7, Doyle 7, Russell 8, Wilson 8, ★**COWLING** 9.
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki 6, King 6, Evans 7 (sub, Muldoon 6), ★**BATER** 8, Downman 6, Keay 6, Arkwright 6, Edwards 7, Hunt 6, Hill 7, Gregory 6.
Referee: M. Scott (Nottingham)
Match Rating: ★★★

PRESTON (1) 1 (Sayer 11)
WALSALL (0) 0
Att: 4,013
Preston: ★**HODGE** 9, Hinnigan 7, McAteer 7, O'Riordan 7, Booth 8, Lodge 6, Sayer 7, Gowling 5, Elliott 7, Naughton 6, Bell 6.
Walsall: ★**GREEN** 9, Caswell 8, Mower 8, Beech 7, Sinnott 7, Hart 7, Kearns 5, Prece 7, Summerfield 7, Buckley 7, O'Kelly 7.
Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)
Match Rating: ★★★

SCOTTISH
First Division

RAITH (1) 4 (Harris 34, Kerr, pen 50, Marshall 69, Moore 80)
HEARTS (1) 2 (Johnston 7, pen 72)
Att: 3,200
Sending Off: MacDonald, A (Hearts)

Second Division

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH (1) 1 (Steedman 32)
FORFAR (1) 1 (Alexander 22)
Att: 900

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PLAYER RATINGS

10	Out of this world
9	Outstanding
8	Excellent
7	Good
6	Adequate
5	Off form
4	Poor

MATCH RATINGS

★★★★★	A classic
★★★★★	Good value
★★★★★	Satisfactory
★★★★	Dull
★★★★	A waste of money

UEFA Under-21 Championship

ENGLAND (1) 2 (Wallace, Mpontzos og)
GREECE (0) 1 (Voutiritis)
Att: 8,499 (at Portsmouth)

SCOTLAND (0) 2 (Black 2, 1 pen)
SWITZERLAND (0) 1 (Koller, pen)
Att: 11,000 (at Dundee)

Wednesday, Mar. 30
European Championships

Group One

SCOTLAND (0) 2 (Wark 70, Nicholas 75)
SWITZERLAND (1) 2 (Egli 15, Hermann 58)
Att: 36,923
Scotland: Leighton, Gough, Gray F, Souness, Hansen (sub, McLeish), Miller, Strachan, Dalglish, Nicholas, Wark, Weir.
Switzerland: Burgener, Ludi, Hermann, Egli, Geiger, Wehrli, Favre, Decastel, Sulser, Ponte, Elsener.

EAST GERMANY (0) 1 (Streich)
BELGIUM (1) 2 (Van der Elst, Vandenbergh)

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	4	2	1	1	9	3	5
EIRE	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Spain	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Malta	3	1	0	2	2	8	2
Iceland	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Friday, April 1

Division Two

OLDHAM (0) 0
BLACKBURN (0) 0
Att: 7,966
Oldham: Goram 6, Sinclair 6, Ryan 6, Bowden 5, Clements 6, ★**HOOLICKIN** 7, Wyld 5, Atkinson 6, McDonough 5, Henry 5, Palmer 5.
Blackburn: ★**GENNOE** 7, Branagan 6, Rathbone 6, Randell 6, Mail 6, Fazakerley 5, Miller 6, Hamilton 5, Lowey 5, Garner 5, Brotherton 5.
Referee: J. D. Hough (Macclesfield)
Match Rating: ★

Division Three

BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Joseph 6)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Morgan 83)
Att: 12,593
Brentford: ★**ROCHE** 8, Rowe 6, Booker 6, McNichol 7, Whitehead 6, Hurlock 7, Kamara 7, Joseph 7, Cassells 7, Bowles 7, Roberts 7.
Portsmouth: Knight 7, McLaughlin 6, Sullivan 7, Doyle 7, Tait 6, Aizlewood 7, Webb 7, Dillon 7, Morgan 7, ★**BILEY** 8, Rogers 6.
Referee: H. Taylor (Oadby)
Match Rating: ★★★★

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Sims 47)

EXETER (0) 0
Att: 8,856
Plymouth: Crudgington 6, Nisbet 6, Uzzell 5, Harrison 5, Smith 7, Cooper 5, Hodges 7, Phillips 6, Sims 7, Staniforth 6, ★**ROGERS** 8.

Exeter: ★**BOND** 9, Rogers 7, Viney 6, Harle 6, Marker 5, Philips 6, Neville 7, Rogers 5, P 5, Pullar 5, Delva 6 (sub, Pratt 5), Crown 5.
Referee: A. Seville (Birmingham)
Match Rating: ★★★★

SOUTHBEND (0) 1 (Moody 77)

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Cascarino 71)
Att: 4,234
Southend: Cawston 7, Stead 7, Pennyfather 6, May 5, Yates 5 (sub, Clark 5), ★**MOODY** 8, Pountney 6, Phillips 7, Linford 7, Owers 6, Nelson 5.
Gillingham: Hillyard 7, ★**SHARPE** 8, Adams 7, Bruce 7, Shaw 6, Duncan 5 (sub, Horrix 5), Tydeman 7, Bowman 7, Weatherly 5, Mehmet 5, Casciaro 7.
Referee: K. Baker (Rugby)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Four

BLACKPOOL (0) 0
STOCKPORT (0) 0
Att: 3,126
Blackpool: ★**HESFORD** 9, Bardsley 7, Pritchett 7, Deary 7, Hetzke 6, Greenhal 6, Hockaday 6, McNiven 6, Stewart 6, Noble 5, Pasley 5.
Stockport: Lloyd 7, Rutter 6, Sherlock 6, ★**EMERSON** 8, Sword 6, Thorpe 6, Williams 7, Smith 6, Quinn 7, Power 7, Coyle 6.
Referee: P. N. Willis (Meadowfield)
Match Rating: ★★

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Allinson 9)

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
Att: 3,759
Colchester: Walker 6, Cook 6, ★**LONGHORN** 8, McDonough 7, Wignall 7, Coleman 6, Allinson 7, Osborne 6, Bowen 6, Adcock 6 (sub, Groves), Hull 7.
Peterborough: Naylor 5, Winters 6, Collins 5, Gynn 6, Firm 5, Slack 7 (sub, Carmichael), Benjamin 6, Linton 6.
Referee: R. S. Lewis (Great Bookham)
Match Rating: ★★★

MATCH FACTS

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Lester 32, Cammack 70)
HALIFAX (0) 0
Att: 3,775
Scunthorpe: Neenan 7, Keeley 6, Pointon 7, Boxall 7, Barnes 7, **HUNTER 8**, Graham 7, Cammack 7, Lester 7, Cowling 7 (sub. Oates 6), Leman 6.
Halifax: Smelt 7, Nobbs 6, Wood 6, Evans 6, Smith 7, Hendrie 7, Gallagher 6, Skivington 6 (sub. **SPOONER 8**), Allatt 6, Ward 7, Staniforth 6.
Referee: J. Lovatt (Crewe)
Match Rating: ★★

WIMBLEDON (0) 0
SWINDON (0) 0
Att: 3,400
Wimbledon: Beasant 7, Peters 5, Sparrow 6, **GALLIERS 8**, Morris 5, Hatter 6, Evans 5, Ketteridge 7, Belfield 5, Hodges 6 (sub. Dibble), Downes 7.
Swindon: Allan 7, Bailie 6, Baddeley 5, **BATTY 8**, Lewis 7, Graham 7, Baverstock 5, Barnard 6, Rideout 7, Rowland 5, Blackler 6.
Referee: M. J. Taylor (Deal)
Match Rating: ★★

Saturday, April 2

Division One

ARSENAL (0) 0
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0
Att: 24,911
Arsenal: Wood 6, Kay 6, Sansom 6, Whyte 7, O'Leary 6, **NICHOLAS 8**, Talbot 6, Davis 6, Sunderland 6, Woodcock 6, Rix 7.
Southampton: Shilton 7, Agboola 6, Mills 6, Williams 7, Nicholl 6, Wright 6, Holmes 6, Baird 5, **MORAN 8**, Armstrong 7, Wallace 6.
Referee: I. J. Borrett (Eye, Suffolk)
Match Rating: ★★

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Stevenson, pen 87)
SWANSEA (0) 1 (Latchford 80)
Att: 13,591
Birmingham: Coton 6, Hagan 6, Dennis 6, Stevenson 6, Blake 6, Van den Hauwe 6, Gayle 4, Phillips 5, Harford 4, Halsall 5, **HOPKINS 7**.
Swansea: **SANDER 7**, Marustik 6, Richards 5, Stevenson 6, Lewis 6, Rajkovic 6, Loveridge 4, James 6, Walsh 4, Stanley 5, Latchford 6.
Referee: R. Bridges (Deeside)
Match Rating: ★

BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Gatting 85, Ryan 87)
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Roberts 22)
Att: 20,359
Brighton: Moseley 7, Ramsey 5, **GATTING 8**, Pearce 5, Foster 7, Stevens 7, Case 7, Connor 5, Robinson 5, Smith 6, Howlett 7 (sub. Ryan).
Spurs: Clemente 7, **HUGHTON 8**, O'Reilly 6, Roberts 6, Lacy 7, Gibson 7 (sub. Hazard), Mabbott 6, Archibald 7, Falco 6, Brazil 7, Galvin 5.
Referee: V. Callow (Solihull)
Match Rating: ★★★
Sendings Off: Ramsey (Brighton), Galvin (Spurs)

IPSWICH (1) 1 (McCall 2)
ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Shaw 45, Withe 64)
Att: 19,912
Ipswich: Cooper 6, **BURLEY 9**, Geron 6, Putney 6, Osman 7, Butcher 7, Wark 6, McCall 6, Mariner 7, D'Avray 6 (sub. Thijssen 6), O'Callaghan 6.
Aston Villa: Spink 7, Williams 6, Gibson 6, Evans 7, McNaught 7, Mortimer 6, Bremner 6, Shaw 7, Withe 6, Cowans 6, **WALTERS 8**.
Referee: E. Scales (Ware)
Match Rating: ★★★

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Souness 72)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0
Att: 35,821
Liverpool: Grobelaar 6, Neal 7, Kennedy 7, Lawrenson 6, Whelan 6, Hansen 6, Dalglish 6, Lee 6, Fairclough 6, Johnston 7, **SOUNESS 8**.
Sunderland: **TURNER 8**, Nicholl 6, Munro 5, Atkins 5, Chisholm 6, Proctor 7, Venison 7, Rowell 6, Worthington 6 (sub. West), James 6, Pickering 7.
Referee: K. Barratt (Coventry)
Match Rating: ★★★★

LUTON (0) 0
NORWICH (1) 1 (Bennett 26)
Att: 11,211
Luton: Godden 7, **STEPHENS 8**, Elliott 6, Horton 7, Goodyear 5, Thomas 5 (sub. Daniel), Hill 6, Aylott 7, Walsh 6, Donaghy 7, Moss 5.
Norwich: Woods 8, Haylock 7, Downs 7, Mendham 8, Walford 8, **WATSON 9**, Bennett 8, O'Neill 8, Deehan 7, Bertschin 7, Channon 7 (sub. Jack).
Referee: M. L. James (Horsham)
Match Rating: ★★★

MANCHESTER UNITED (2) 3 (Stapleton 27, Gillespie, og 29, Macari 58)
COVENTRY (0) 0
Att: 36,814
Man Utd: Wealands 6, Duxbury 6, Albiston 6, Moses 6, McGrath 6, McQueen 7, **WILKINS 9**, Muhran 5, Stapleton 8, Whiteside 6 (sub. Macari 6), Coppell 6.
Coventry: Sealey 7, **THOMAS 8**, Roberts 5, Jacobs 6, Dyson 6, Gillespie 5, Whittin 5 (sub. Butterworth 5), Francis 5, Hateley 5, Hunt 6, Hendrie 5.
Referee: N. J. Ashley (Nantwich)
Match Rating: ★★★

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (2) 2 (Hodge 1, Bowyer 15)
EVERTON (0) 0
Att: 14,815
Not'tn Forest: Van Breukelen 7, **ANDERSON 8**, Swain 7, Todd 7, Fairclough 6, Bowyer 7, Wilson 6 (sub. Wigley 6), Wallace 6, Davenport 6, Hodge 7, Robertson 7.
Everton: Arnold 6, Stevens 6, Bailey 7, Ratcliffe 6, Higgins 6, Richardson 6 (sub. Johnson 6), Ainscow 7, **McMAHON 8**, Sharp 7, Heath 6, Sheedy 7.
Referee: D. Reeves (Uxbridge)
Match Rating: ★★★

STOKE (0) 1 (McIlroy, pen 54)
NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0
Att: 16,314
Stoke: **FOX 9**, Bould 6, Hampton 7, Bracewell 6, Watson 7, McAughtrie 6, Painter 7, McIlroy 8, Griffiths 6, Thomas 8, Chamberlain, M 8.
Notts County: **AVRAMOVIC 9**, Benjamin 5, Clarke 6, Hunt 6 (sub. Goodwin 6), Kilcline 6, Richards 7, Harkouk 7, Lahtinen 6, McCulloch 8, Christie 7, Worthington 7.
Referee: N. Midgley (Salford)
Match Rating: ★★★

WEST BROM (0) 0
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 2 (Cross 47, Reeves 86)
Att: 13,654
West Brom: Barron 6, Whitehead 6, **STATHAM 7**, Zondervan 5, Wile 6, Robertson 6, Jol 4, Thompson 5, Cross 5, Owen 5 (sub. Lewis 5), Eastoe 5.
Man City: Williams 7, Ranson 6, Power 6, Reid 6, **BOND 8**, Caton 7, Kinsey 7, Reeves 7, Cross 6, Hartford 6, Baker 6.
Referee: J. Deakin (Bedford)
Match Rating: ★★

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Van der Elst 19, Swindhurst 60)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Callaghan 6)
Att: 22,647
West Ham: Parkes 6, Stewart 5, Lampard 6, Bonds 6, Martin 7, **DEVONSHIRE 8**, Van der Elst 7, Goddard 7, Swindhurst 7 (sub. Cottee), Dickens 7, Pike 7.
Watford: Sherwood 7, Rice 6, Rostron 6, Taylor 6, Sims 7, Bolton 6, **CALLAGHAN 8**, Blissett 6, Barnes 7, Lohman 6 (sub. Armstrong 6), Jobson 7.
Referee: N. Glover (Chorley)
Match Rating: ★★

Division Two

BARNESLEY (0) 1 (McGuire 73)

LEICESTER (1) 2 (Wilson 44, English 48)

Att: 13,278

Barnsley: Pierce 6, Souter 5, Chambers 6, McGuire 7, Banks 5, McCarthy 7, Laws 7, **PARKER 8**, Ronson 7, Cunningham 6, Birch 7 (sub. Glavin 6).
Leicester: Wallington 7, Ramsey 6, Smith 8, MacDonald 6, English 7, O'Neill 6, Lynex 6, Lineker 7, **SMITH, A 8**, Daly 7, Wilson 7.
Referee: T. Fitzharris (Bolton)
Match Rating: ★★★

BOLTON (0) 1 (Rudge 56)

LEEDS (1) 2 (Butterworth 21, Hart 72)

Att: 10,784

Bolton: McDonagh 6, Whitworth 6, Burrows 7, Redfearn 7, Berry 6, Doyle 6, Chandler 6, **RUDGE 8**, Moores 6, Gray 6, Hoggan 6.

Leeds: Harvey 6, Thomas 7, GRAY, F 9, Sheridan 7, Hart 8, Dickinson 6, Hird 6, Ritchie 6, Butterworth 6, Donnelly 6, Graham 6.
Referee: P. Scott (Nottingham)
Match Rating: ★★

BURNLEY (0) 0
WOLVES (1) 1 (Palmer 7)

Att: 9,593
Burnley: Stevenson 7, Laws 5, Donachie 6, **SCOTT 8**, Phelan 7, Dobson 6, Flynn 7, Steven 6, Taylor 5, Donovan 7, Young 7 (sub. Overton).
Wolves: Burridge 7, Humphrey 7, Palmer 6, Smith 6, **PENDER 8**, Dodd 7, Kellock 6 (sub. Hibbitt 6), Clarke 6, Richards 6, Eves 6, Matthews 7.
Referee: T. Mills (Barnsley)
Match Rating: ★★★

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0
CAMBRIDGE (0) 0
Att: 5,495
Crystal Palace: Fry 6, Locke 5, Murphy 6, Nebbeling 6 (sub. Langley 5), **CANNON 7**, Gilbert 6, Brown 6, Hughton 5, Jones 5, Giles 6, Hilaire 6.
Cambridge: Webster 6, Fisher 6, Murray 5, Turner 5, Fallon 6, Finney 6, **CHRISTIE 7**, Sinton 5, Goldsmith 5, Pyle 5 (sub. Reilly), Cooke 5.
Referee: E. A. Read (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★

FULHAM (1) 1 (Locke 23)
CHELSEA (1) 1 (Canoville 19)

Att: 15,249
Fulham: Peyton 7, Hopkins 6, Lock 6, O'Driscoll 6, Brown 6, Gale 6, Davies 6, Wilson 6, Coney 6, Houghton 7, **LEWINGTON 8**.
Chelsea: Iles 6, Jones 6, Hutchings 6, Lee 6, **DROY 8**, Pates 7, Filfrey 6, Busteed 6, Speedie 6, Rhoades-Brown 6, Canoville 7.
Referee: D. J. Axcell (Southend)
Match Rating: ★★★★

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Bell 36)
CARLISLE (0) 0
Att: 9,965
Middlesbrough: O'Hanlon 7, Nattrass 6, Bolton 7, Baxter 6, Mowbray 7, Otto 6, Sugrue 6, **KENNEDY 8**, Wood 6, Shearer 5, Bell 7.
Carlisle: Swinburne 7, Parker 5 (sub. Nicholson), Haigh 6, **COUGHLIN 8**, Rushbury 5, Houghton 6, Robson 6, Possett 6, Craig 6, Shoulder 6.
Referee: R. Chadwick (Darwen)
Match Rating: ★★

NEWCASTLE (2) 4 (Keegan 31, Varadi 41, 71, McDonald 88)
GRIMSBY (0) 0
Att: 20,143
Newcastle: Carr 7, Anderson 7, Wharton 7, Martin 8, **CLARKE 9**, Carney 6, Keegan 7, McDonald 8, Varadi 7, McDermott 7 (sub. McCreery), Waddle 7.
Grimsby: Batch 7, Moore 6, D 6, Crombie 7, **WATERS 9**, Crosby 8, Moore 6, K 7, Ford 8, Bonnyman 6 (sub. Kilmore 6), Drinkell 6, O'Dell 6, Cumming 6.
Referee: N. Glover (Chorley)
Match Rating: ★★

ROTHERHAM (0) 0
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (0) 3 (Bannister 60, 78, Mills 71)

Att: 11,250
Rotherham: Mimms 6, Forrest 5 (sub. McEwan 5), Friar 7, Gow 7, **STANCLIFFE 8**, Johnson 7, Arnett 7, Seasman 6, Moore 7, Mitchell 6, McBride 7.
Sheff Wed: Bolder 6, Sterland 7, Bailey 6, Smith 7, Lyons 7, Shelton 7, Megson 6, Mills 7, **BANNISTER 8**, McCulloch 6 (sub. Pearson 6), Heard 7.
Referee: B. Hill (Kettering)
Match Rating: ★★★

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Robinson 90)
DERBY (1) 1 (Hoeks 5)

Att: 7,194
Shrewsbury: Ogrizovic 7, Williams 7, Johnson 7, Petts 6 (sub. Turner 6), Pearson 7, **STEVENS 8**, Cross 6, McLaren 7, Brown 6, Robinson 7, McNally 6.
Derby: Cherry 7, Barton 6, Buckley 6, Gemmill 7, **POWELL 8**, Futch 7, Brolly 6, Davison 6, Wilson 7, Hooks 6, Mills 6.
Referee: R. Nixon (Wirral)
Match Rating: ★★★

Division Three

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 2 (Morgan 76, Beck 77)

ORIENT (0) 0
Att: 7,039
Bournemouth: Leigh 7, Heffernan 6, Sulley 6, Spackman 7, Brignull 7, Impey 6, Dawtry 6, **BECK 8**, Morgan 6, Lee 6, Nightingale 7.
Orient: **DAY 8**, Cornwell 6, Roffey 6, Foster 7, Gray 7, McNeil 7, Peach 6, Price 6, Houchen 6, Kitchen 6, Godfrey 7.
Referee: M. J. Bodenham (Brighton)
Match Rating: ★★

CARDIFF (0) 0
PLYMOUTH (0) 0
Att: 7,226
Cardiff: **STEELE 8**, Jones 7, Mullen 6, Tong 5, Dwyer 6, Bennett 6, G 6, Bennett 6, Gibbins 5, Hatton 4 (sub. Bodin 5), Hemmerman 4, Micalef 6.
Plymouth: **CRUDGINGTON 8**, Nisbet 7, Uzzell 7, Harrison 6, Smith 6, Cooper 5, Hodges 6, Phillips 6, Sims 6, Staniforth 6, Rogers 6.
Referee: T. J. Holbrook (Walsall)
Match Rating: ★★

EXETER (0) 0
BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 1 (Randall 2)

Att: 5,741
Exeter: Bond 6, Rogers, M 5, Viney 5, Harle 6, **MARKER 9**, McEwan 8, Neville 6, Pratt 6, Burke 5, Phillips 6, Crown 5 (sub. Kellow 6).
Bristol Rovers: **KITE 8**, Sherwood 6, Williams, B 7, Williams, G 7, Parkin 6, McCaffery 7, Bell 7, Pulis 6, Witney 5 (sub. Stephens 6), Randall 6, Platnauer 7.
Referee: A. Gunn (Sussex)
Match Rating: ★★★

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Whitehead, og 35, Casciarino 47)
BRENTFORD (1) 2 (Kamara 24, 80)

Att: 4,168
Gillingham: Hillyard 6, **SHARPE 8**, Adams 7, Bruce 6, Shaw 7, Sage 6 (sub. Horrix 6), Tydeman 7, Bowman 7, Weatherley 6, Mehmet 6, Casciarino 7.
Brentford: Roche 7, Rowe 6, Booker 6, McNichol 7, Whitehead 6, Hurlock 7, **KAMARA 8**, Joseph 6, Cassells 7, Harris 7, Roberts 7.
Referee: B. Daniels (Brentwood)
Match Rating: ★★★

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Sutton 77)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Hobson 38)

Att: 13,028
Huddersfield: Cox 7, Brown 6, Burke 7, Stanton 6, **SUTTON 8**, Harvey 7, Lillis 6 (sub. Pugh 6), Doyle 7, Russell 7, Wilson 7, Cowling 7.
Lincoln: Felgate 7, Simmonite 6, Neale 7, Cockrell 7, **PEAKE 8**, Braizer 7, Thompson 6, Turner 7, Hobson 7 (sub. Moss 6), Bell 7, Shipley 7.
Referee: N. Wilson (Morecambe)
Match Rating: ★★★★

MILLWALL (2) 3 (Otulakowski 15, Chatterton, pen 28, McLeary 89)
SOUTHEND (1) 1 (Nelson 10)

Att: 3,336
Millwall: Wells 6, Lovell 6, Stride 7, White 6, Nutton 6, Cusack 6, Stewart 6, Neal 7 (sub. McLeary), **BREMNER 8**, Otulakowski 7, Chatterton 7.
Southend: **CAWSTON 8**, Stead 7, Pennyfather 6, May 6, Clark 7, Moody 6 (sub. Hadley 6), Pountney 6, Phillips 6, Owers 6, Linford 6, Nelson 7.
Referee: R. Glasson (Salisbury)
Match Rating: ★★★★

OXFORD (0) 0
NEWPORT (2) 3 (Tynan 6, Lowndes 29, Aldridge 61)

Att: 6,640
Oxford: Hardwick 6, Attley 5 (sub. Jones), Smithers 5, Brock 6, Briggs 5, Shotton 5, Lawrence 5, Whatmore 5, Vinter 5, Hebbard 6, **BARNETT 7**.
Newport: Kendall 6, Jones 7, Relish 6, Boyle 7, Oakes 6, **STROUD 8**, Lowndes 7, Aldridge 7, Tynan 7, Vaughan 6, Eisey 7.
Referee: M. Dimblebee (Stevenage)
Match Rating: ★★★

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Dillon, pen 35, pen 54)
READING (1) 2 (Price 9, Earles 63)

Att: 15,327
Portsmouth: Knight 6, McLaughlin 7, Sullivan 5, **TAIT 8**, Rollings 6, Aizlewood 6, Webb 6, Dillon 7, Morgan 5, Biley 5, Rogers 5.
Reading: Judge 6, Williams 6, Richardson 7, Beaven 7, Hicks 7, White 6, Earles 6, Price 5, Dixon 5, Basin 6, **SANCHEZ 8**.
Referee: C. Thomas (Portsmouth)
Match Rating: ★★★

MATCH FACTS MATCH FACTS

PRESTON (2) 4 (Hinnigan 12, McAtee 21, Elliott 58, Humphries, og 68)
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Humphries 59)
Att: 5,287
Preston: Hodge 7, Hinnigan 8, McAtee 7, O'Riordan 7, Booth 7, Lodge 7, ★**SAYER** 9, Gowling 6, Elliott 7, Naughton 6, Bell 7.
Doncaster: Peacock 6, Russell 6, Johnson 6, Snodin, I, 5, Humphries 6, Lister 6, Walker 5 (sub. Austin 5), Mell 6, ★**DOUGLAS** 7, Mann 6, Robertson 6.
Referee: C. L. Newsome (Boseley)
Match Rating: ★★

SHEFFIELD UNITED (1) 3 (Trussell 42, Brazil 52, Edwards 89)
CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Owen 18)
Att: 12,441
Sheff Utd: Waugh 7, Smith 5, Garner 7, Henderson 7, West 6, Houston 7, Morris 6, Trussell 7, Edwards 7, Young 6 (sub). ★**BRAZIL** 8, Curran 6.
Chesterfield: Turner 7, O'Neill 6, Partridge 6, Kowalski 7, Green 7, Pollard 6, Plummer 6, Owen 7, Henderson 6, Ross 6.
★**WINDRIDGE** 8.
Referee: F. Roberts (Prestatyn)
Match Rating: ★★

WALSALL (1) 2 (O'Kelly 34, Summerfield 48)
WIGAN (0) 0
Att: 2,829
Walsall: Green 8 (sub. Buckley), Caswell 7, Mower 7, Beech 7, Sinnott 7, Hart 8, Kearns 7, ★**PREECE** 9, Summerfield 7, Shakespeare 7, O'Kelly 7.
Wigan: Tunks 8, McMahon 7, Glenn 7, Cribbley 7, Walsh 7, Methven 7, Lowe 7, ★**BARROW** 9, O'Keefe 7, Houghton 7, Butler 7 (sub. Bradd 7).
Referee: D. Hedges (Oxford)
Match Rating: ★★

MATCH WINNERS

LINDA Hodson of Lincoln is the lucky winner of a super knitted bobble hat after winning our March 19 'Spot the Difference' competition.

Lincoln supporter Linda will be presented with her prize on the pitch just before one of the 'Imps' home games this season.

The 24 runners-up, who will also receive a bobble hat, are: Mark Denyer, Farnham, Surrey; Richard Berry, Taunton, Somerset; Andrew Bridge, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands; Rowena Burgess, Sisland, Norfolk; Stephen Swash, Fareham, Hants; Dean Pepper, Keswick, Cumbria; Neil Emery, Holcombe, Devon; Salim Mughal, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey; Sonia Lee, Portsmouth, Hants; Robert Coyle, Worcester; David Mepintly, Aylesbury, Bucks; Benjamin Jones, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton; Kevin Quinn, Sheffield; Kevin Sheldon, Nottingham; Jason Canovas, Wallasey; Janine Hogg, Edinburgh; Shana Robb, Shefield; Julie Smith, Dukinfield, Cheshire; Kane Price, Plymouth, Devon; A. Grant, Morden, Surrey; David Walker, Rotherham, Yorks; Alexander Wilson, Market Rasen, Lincs; Andrew Lee, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancs, and Graeme Pethard, Kirkby, Liverpool.



A Coq Sportif tracksuit, kit and pair of boots are on their way to Mark Wilbraham of Littleborough, Lancs. — the winner of our club emblem competition.

The runner-up Gary Gordon of Northwood, Middlesex, wins two tickets for the England v Hungary game at Wembley next month.

Eight consolation prizes of Coq Sportif replica shirts are on their way to: Martyn Jones, Whitchurch, Cardiff; David Southam, Rugby, Warks; John Davison, New Brancepeth, Durham; Philip Watkins, Halesowen, West Midlands; Richard Chapman, Dunstable, Beds; Martin Roberts, Tupton, Chesterfield; Jayne Slim, Ecclesfield, Sheffield; and Paul Boon, Daventry, Northants.

WREXHAM (0) 0
BRADFORD (2) 4 (Campbell 22, 33, Gray 66, 69)
Att: 2,808
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki 6, King 6, Hill 6, ★**SAVAGE** 8, Downman 6 (sub. Williams 6), Jones 6, Arkwright 6, Edwards 6, Hunt 5, Baker 6, Gregory 7.
Bradford: Ramsbottom 7, Podd 7, Chapman 7, Cavener 7, Jackson 7, Cherry 7, ★**GRAY** 8, Black 6, Campbell 7, McCall 7, Lampkin 7.
Referee: G. Naphine (Loughborough)
Match Rating: ★★★

Division Four

ALDERSHOT (0) 0
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Hull 34)
Att: 1,670
Aldershot: Johnson 6, Scott 4, Gillard 4, Briley 6, Whitlock 4, Jopling 5, Shrubbs 5, Banton 4, Senior 5, ★**McDONALD** 8, Brodie 4 (sub. Lucas).
Colchester: Walker 7, Cook 6, Longhorn 6, McDonough 7, Wignall 6, ★**COLEMAN** 8, Allinson 5 (sub. Leslie), Osborne 7, Bowen 6, Adcock 6, Hull 7.
Referee: M. Robinson (Sutton Coldfield)
Match Rating: ★

BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Ritchie 41)
HEREFORD (1) 1 (Phillips 31)
Att: 6,264
Bristol City: Shaw 6, Llewellyn 5, Williams 6, G. Nicholls 6, Phillipson-Masters 7, Riley 7, Ritchie 6, Williams 7, P. 7, ★**COOPER** 8, Bray 5 (sub. Palmer), Crawford 6.
Hereford: Wilmet 6, Price 6, Bartley 6, Larkin 6, Pejic 7, ★**MADDY** 8, Harvey 6, Lane 7, Phillips 7, Carter 7, White 6.
Referee: B. T. Stevens (Stonehouse)
Match Rating: ★★★
Sending Off: Pejic (Hereford)

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
BURY (0) 1 (Johnson 66)
Att: 1,285
Hartlepool: Blackburn 7, Smithies 5, Stimpson 6, ★**ROBINSON** 8, Bird 7, Linighan 6, Lowe 6, Smith 6, Langridge 5 (sub. Johnson 6), Linacre 7, Stewart 5.
Bury: Brown 7, Gardner 5, Breckin 6, Gore 7, Bramhall 7, Halliday 6, Cantello 5, Parker 7, ★**JOHNSON** 8, Jakub 7 (sub. Madden 6), Potts 6.
Referee: K. Hackett (Sheffield)
Match Rating: ★★★

HULL (0) 0
DARLINGTON (0) 0
Att: 7,709
Hull: Norman 6, Hughes 6, Thompson 7, Roberts, D 7, Skipper 6, Booth 7, Marwood 5, ★**MCCLAREN** 8, Whitehurst 5, Mutrie 7, Roberts, G 7.
Darlington: ★**BARBER** 9, Kamara 7, Young 6, Smith 6, Barton 7, Cartwright 5, Gilbert 5, McLean 5, Todd 5, Walsh 6, McFadden 6.
Referee: K. Walmsley (Blackpool)
Match Rating: ★★★

NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Saunders 76)
MANSFIELD (0) 2 (Caldwell 54, 65)
Att: 1,988
Northampton: Gleasure 7, Saxby 5, Tucker 6, Gage 5, ★**BURROWS** 8, Coffill 7, Jeffrey 7, Saunders 6, Beaven 6 (sub. Sandy 6), Syrett 7, Denyer 6.
Mansfield: Arnold 7, Woodhead 6, Kearney 7, Matthews 6, Bird 6, ★**CALDERWOOD** 8, Bell 6, Rhodes 5 (sub. Sindall 6), Dungworth 5, Caldwell 7, Nicholson 6.
Referee: A. W. Ward (London)
Match Rating: ★★★

PETERBOROUGH (0) 2 (Chard, pen 65, Clarke 69)
CREWE (1) 1 (Waller 29)
Att: 2,490
Peterborough: Naylor 5, Winters 5, Carmichael 6, ★**GYNNE** 8, Firm 6, Slack 7, Clarke 6, Rodaway 6, Chard 7, Benjamin 5, Collins 6.
Crewe: Smith 6, Miller 5, Bowers 5, Edwards 6, ★**SCOTT** 8, Hart 6, Haslegrave 7, Bancroft 7, Waller 7, Walker 5, Ciss 6.
Referee: J. Moules (Ongar)
Match Rating: ★★★

STOCKPORT (1) 3 (Quinn 43, 57, Phillips 51)
CHESTER (2) 3 (Thomas 9, Simpson 32, Manns 90)
Att: 2,008
Stockport: Lloyd 6, Rutter 7, Sherlock 7, Emerson 7, Sword 7, Thorpe 7, Williams 8, Phillips 7, ★**QUINN** 9, Power 6, Smith 6.

Chester: Harrington 6, Needham 6, Lane 6, Storton 7, Zelem 7 (sub. Deane 7), Blackwell 8, Allen 7, Simpson 7, Thomas 8, ★**MANN** 9, Williams 7.
Referee: A. Challinor (Rotherham)
Match Rating: ★★★

TORQUAY (0) 0
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Steel 69)
Att: 2,593
Torquay: ★**HORN** 8, James 6, Holmes 7, Wilson 6, Little 6 (sub. Doyle 6), Jones 6, Grapes 6, Carter 5, Cooper 6, Anderson 7, Gallagher 6.
Port Vale: Siddall 6, Tatt 7, Bromage 7, Hunter 7, Ridley 7, Cegelski 7, ★**FOX** 8, Steel 7, Newton 6, Lawrence 6, Armstrong 6.
Referee: S. Bates (Bristol)
Match Rating: ★★★

TRANMERE (1) 1 (Brown 22)
BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Pritchett 20)
Att: 1,831
Transmere: Adkins 6, Williams, G 7, Burgess 6, ★**OLIVER** 8, Mungall 6, Williams, T 7, Powell 7 (sub. Kerr), Aspinall 6, Wellings 6, Brown 6, Griffiths 6.
Blackpool: Herford 7, Bardsley 7, Pritchett 6, Deary 6, Hetzke 6, Greenall 6 (sub. Bramhall 5), Hockaday 6, McNiven 6, Downes 7, Noble 6, ★**PASHLEY** 8.
Referee: A. J. Hamill (Wolverhampton)
Match Rating: ★★★

YORK (1) 1 (Walwyn 32)
ROCHDALE (0) 0
Att: 3,357
York: Jones 7, Evans 7, Hay 6, Sbragia 7, ★**SMITH** 8, Hood 7, Ford 6, Crosby 6 (sub. Busby 7), Walwyn 7, Byrne 6, Pollard 6.
Rochdale: Pearce 6, Keenan 7, Carr 6, ★**FARRELL** 8, Williams 6, Taylor 6 (sub. Greaves 6), Thompson, D 6, Thompson, S 6, Higgins 7, Greenhoff, J 6, Martinez 7.
Referee: A. Saunders (Newcastle)
Match Rating: ★★★

SCOTTISH

Premier Division

ABERDEEN (0) 0
ST MIRREN (0) 1 (McEachran 74)
Att: 13,000
Aberdeen: Leighton 8, Kennedy 6, McMaster 5 (sub. Rougvie 7), Cooper 6, McLeish 8, ★**MILLER** 9, Strachan 5, Simpson 6 (sub. Watson), McGhee 7, Black 7, Weir 7.
St Mirren: Thomson 8, Wilson 7, Clarke 7 (sub. McEachran 7), McCormack 7, Fulton 6, ★**COPLAND** 9, Logan 7, Richardson 8, Wardrop 5 (sub. MacDougall 7), McAvennie 6, Abercrombie 5.
Referee: R. B. Valentine (Dundee)
Match Rating: ★★★

CELTIC (2) 3 (McGarvey 17, Harrow, og 36, McAdam 80)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0
Att: 15,454
Celtic: Bonner 7, McGrain 7, Reid 7, ★**AITKEN** 8, McAdam 7, MacLeod 6, Provan 6, McStay, P 6, Nicholas 6, Crainie 6, McGarvey 7 (sub. McStay, W).
Motherwell: Walker 7, Dornan 6, MacLeod 7, Wark 6, Harrow 6, Mauchalen 5, Gahagan 7, ★**MCCLAIR** 8, Flavell 5, Coyne 4, O'Hara 5 (sub. Rafferty 4).
Referee: B. Smith (Edinburgh)
Match Rating: ★★★

DUNDEE UNITED (1) 3 (Milne 31, Sturrock 76, 89)
RANGERS (0) 1 (Clark 66)
Att: 14,142
Dundee Utd: McAlpine 6, Gough 7, Malpas 6, Stark 6, Hegarty 6, Narey 6, Bannon 6, Holt 7, Dodds 7, ★**STURROCK** 9, Milne 6.
Rangers: ★**MCLOY** 8, Dawson 6, Redford 6, McClelland 6, Paterson 6, Bett 5, Cooper 5, Prytz 4 (sub. Lyall 5), Clark 7, McKinnon 5, MacDonald 5.
Referee: A. Ferguson (Glasgow)
Match Rating: ★★★

HIBERNIAN (2) 8 (Duncan 9, Thomson, pen 15, pen 48, Irvine 61, 90, Rae 64, McNamara 80, McCurdy 82)
KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Gallagher 11)
Att: 4,500
Hibs: Rough 6, Sneddon 5, Duncan 6, Rice 6, Rae 6, McNamara 5, ★**CALLAGHAN** 8, Turnbull 5, Irvine 6, Thomson 6, Harvey 7 (sub. McCurdy 5).

Kilmarnock: McCulloch 5, Cockburn 5, Clark, R 5, ★**CLARK**, J 6, Armstrong 5, Clarke, P 5, McGivern 5, Simpson 5, Gallagher 5, McClurg 5 (sub. McDicken 5), Cuthbertson 5 (sub. Bryson 5).
Referee: W. McLeish (Stonehouse)
Match Rating: ★★★

MORTON (1) 1 (McNeil 6)
DUNDEE (0) 0
Att: 2,500
Morton: Baines 6, Houston 5, Holmes 5, Rooney 5, McLaughlin 7, Doak 5, McNeil 6, McNab 6 (sub. Gavagan 4), ★**HUTCHISON** 8, Cochrane 5, Ritchie 6 (sub. Payne).
Dundee: Kelly 6, McGeachie 5, McKimmie 6, Fraser 6, Smith 6, MacDonald 5, ★**MACKIE** 7, Bell 4 (sub. Stephen 4), Sinclair 4, Scrimgeour 5, Kidd 4 (sub. Ferguson 4).
Referee: H. Young (Larkhall)
Match Rating: ★★

First Division

AIRDRIE (0) 0
HEARTS (1) 2 (McKay, pen 44, Robertson 81)
Att: 3,000

AYR (0) 1 (Ward 57)
DUMBARTON (1) 2 (Stevenson 22, McGowan 63)
Att: 900

CLYDEBANK (0) 2 (McKeown 55, Williamson 84)
CLYDE (0) 1 (McVeigh, pen 46)
Att: 925

DUNFERMLINE (0) 2 (Morrison, pen 66, 68)
RAITH (1) 2 (McCathie, og 18, Crawford, og 84)
Att: 2,100

HAMILTON (0) 2 (McDowell 87, Wright 89)
ALLOA (0) 0
Att: 839

PARTICK (1) 2 (Buckley 25, Kenny 65)
ST JOHNSTONE (1) 1 (Brogan 24)
Att: 4,193

QUEENS PARK (1) 1 (McNiven 30)
FALKIRK (1) 1 (Houston 35)
Att: 711

Second Division

EAST FIFE (2) 3 (Thomson 19, pen 49, Kirk 41)
BERWICK (0) 0
Att: 472

EAST STIRLING (0) 2 (Ballantyne 47, Renwick 88)
BRECHIN (0) 2 (Graham, pen 75, Paterson 89)
Att: 250

FORFAR (0) 0
MEADOWBANK (0) 3 (Sprott 78, Lawson 82, 88)
Att: 1,104

MONTROSE (0) 1 (McManus 52)
STRANRAER (0) 0
Att: 100

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH (1) 1 (Busby 25)
ARBROATH (1) 1 (Shaw 43)
Att: 500

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Thompson 89)
ALBION (0) 0
Att: 300

STIRLING (2) 3 (Colquhoun 14, 16, Walker 84)
COWDENBEATH (0) 1 (Shanks 75)
Att: 550

LEADING SCORERS

DIVISION ONE

Rush (Liverpool)	29
Blissett (Watford)	24
Latchford (Swansea)	23
Withe (Aston Villa)	20
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Wark (Ipswich)	19
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THE man who gave a 1921 FA Cup Final programme to Tony Cope's father would probably kick himself all the way to Stamford Bridge, if he discovered its value.

Chelsea's ground is relevant in this instance, because that's where Tottenham defeated Wolves 1-0 in that Final, 62 years ago.

And that programme is now worth in the region of £150... so it was some gift.

Tony, a Cambridge printer from Huntingdon, takes up the story about the programme, that is the pride of his 700-strong collection.

"A neighbour, whose father actually went to the Final, knew that my dad was a Tottenham fan and so gave him the programme."

"It's quite obvious he didn't realise what its value would be in the years to come."

"I'm certainly glad he handed it over, although I'm staggered by the kind of price it would now fetch."

Twenty-one-year-old Tony started collecting programmes 12 years ago, his first being the 1971 FA Cup Final programme when Arsenal completed the 'double', by defeating Liverpool 2-1 in extra time.

"Although I have quite a few League programmes from different clubs, I concentrate mainly on big match programmes at Wembley, notably Cup Finals and internationals," says the Manchester United fan.

He has every Cup Final since 1955, plus the 1921 copy, of course, the favourite being the 1977 one when he saw United topple Liverpool 2-1.

His League Cup collection goes back to 1972, and he has all four European Cup Finals played at Wembley.

His Charity Shield programmes go back six years and his 56 Wembley internationals, include an original copy from the 1966 World Cup Final.

"I picked up that programme for £3 and it has since doubled its value," adds Tony.

It's at the big June programme fair in London that Tony adds to his collection, although he admits he doesn't get much for his £30 outlay these days in terms of quantity.

"My main ambition is to obtain a complete set of Wembley FA Cup Finals, but that's going to be expensive. It cost me £13 for the 1956 Final, and when you get down to the first one in 1923 you are talking in terms of three figures."



Tony Cope with three of his most prized programmes including one from the 1921 FA Cup Final — now worth about £150!

GIFT OF A LIFETIME

HAVE you a programme collection? Well, write and tell us about it and you never know, you might find yourself featured in our popular 'Programme Parade' spot.

And if you want to swap some programmes or have a programme valued, then also drop us a line and we'll try to help. Just write to Programme Parade, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE7 8DJ.

PROGRAMME PARADE

ASK THE EXPERT

JANE Barker, of Pontardawe, Swansea, has written to tell us that her mother has a mint condition original copy of the programme, for the first-ever Cup Final at Wembley in 1923.

"It's in excellent condition and it originally cost threepence," she says.

Now, Jane, it's worth in the region of £100.

The programme is regarded as one of the most sought-after by collectors and would fetch anything from £70 to £100 depending on how desperate a collector needs a copy.

STEPHEN Goodey, of Fernhill Heath, Worcester, has asked us to value three Manchester United programmes.

They feature matches against Manchester City

(1959), Everton (1959) and Wolves (1960).

They are not worth a lot I'm afraid. The City programme is worth about £2. Wolves 75p and Everton 30p.

THE 1968 European Cup Final programme featuring Manchester United and Benfica is worth in the region of 60p.

That's in answer to a query from Mark Singleton of Romney Marsh, Kent, who recently took possession of a copy.

THE two programmes Stephen Hutchings, of Northolt, Middlesex, asked us to value are together worth more than £35.

One is the 1937 FA Cup Final between Preston and Sunderland.

It's not in mint condition, but is still worth around £28.

The other is the 1966 World Cup Final, an original copy that is worth around £7.50.

FAIRS

Sunday, April 10 — 'The Spring Spectacular', Riverside Suite, Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, London.

Sunday, April 17 — Nottingham Forest Fair, Members Room, City Ground, Nottingham (10.30 am to 1 pm); The Charlton Fair, The Valley Club, Floyd Road, London SE7 (11 am to 4 pm).

Sunday, April 24 — Tottenham Fair, Chant-le-Clair suite, Paxton Road, Tottenham N17 (adjacent to White Hart Lane).

Sunday, May 1 — Hereford United Fair, The Starlight Room, The Social Club, Edgar Street, Hereford (10.30 am to 2 pm).

Sunday, May 7 — Liverpool Programme Club Fair, Liverpool Supporters Club, Lower Breck Road, Liverpool (11 am to 1 pm).

Sunday, May 15 — Southampton FC Fair, The Dell, Southampton (10.30 am to 2 pm).

Please check that these fairs are still on before setting out from home. Organisers should contact Match if any fairs are cancelled.

SWOPS

OFFER: Southampton programmes v Aston Villa (1974), Everton, Man. City, West Brom and Aston Villa (1979-80), v Man. City (1980-81), v Liverpool (1981-82), v Arsenal, Sunderland (1982-83), Portsmouth v Swindon (1982), Liverpool v Derby and Ipswich (1977-78), Chelsea v West Ham and Everton (1977-78). WANTS: Same amount of Scottish programmes. M. Cook, Belle Vue Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

OFFER: Thirty Cardiff, two QPR and one Swansea programmes.

WANTS: 1971 or 1972 FA Cup Final programmes, or ten Liverpool programmes.

P. Thomas, 50 Brynhyfryd Street, Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales.

OFFER: 1967 FA Cup Final Programme in good condition.

WANTS: 1970 FA Cup Final replay programme. Greig Sarath, 1 Willow Green, Needingworth, Cambs.

OFFER: Man United v Ipswich, Norwich and QPR (1976-77), v Brighton (1980-81), v Bolton (Jim Headridge Testimonial, 1982-83) and Newcastle v Man United (1975-76).

WANTS: Man United v Stoke (1975-76), v Nottingham Forest (1977-78) and Coventry (1979-80).

B. Weldon, 63 Slievegallion Drive, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

OFFER: Derby v Manchester United (this season's FA Cup) and Notts County v Aston Villa (FA Cup, 1981-82). WANTS: Notts County v West Brom and Leeds (1981-82), Notts County v Liverpool and Everton (1982-83).

Paul Tomlinson, 18 Kingsford Avenue, Bobbermill, Nottingham.

OFFER: Five recent Liverpool programmes, one Man United and three West Brom.

WANTS: 1978 FA Cup Final, both legs of the 1980-81 UEFA Cup Final, Ipswich v AZ Alkmaar.

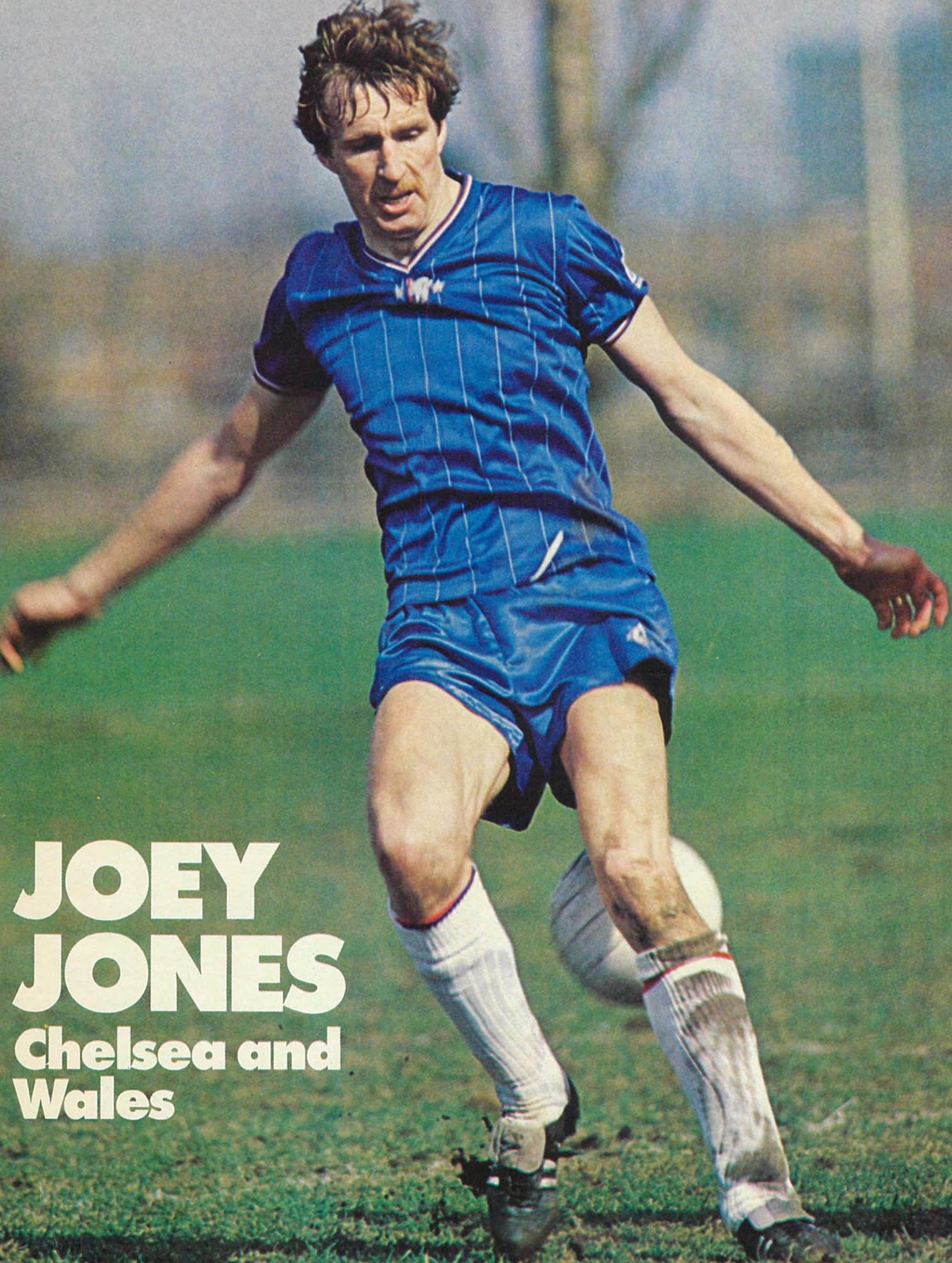
Sean Fenwick, Firth House, Main Road, Seaton, Workington, Cumbria.

OFFER: Dutch programmes featuring Ajax, Den Haag and others.

WANTS: British programmes. Marcel Mulhuyzen, Schaeppmanlaan 14, 2641 WJ Pijnacker, Holland.

PAUL DYSON COVENTRY





JOEY JONES

Chelsea and
Wales

I WAS disgusted by the comments of West Brom fan Barry Cope in 'Terrace Talk'. He said that Watford's ground was small and not up to First Division standard.

Watford have shot from the Fourth Division to the top flight in just five seasons, so how can they produce enough money to immediately create a stadium to compare with The Hawthorns? I'm sure that the Watford management will gradually develop the stadium in the years ahead.

As for Barry's comment that Watford's admission prices were expensive, well Vicarage Road is one of the cheapest grounds in the First Division with admission at £2.

Kevin Newman (12), New Denham, Bucks.

FOLLOWING Philip Castle's letter in 'Terrace Talk' giving the results of a classroom survey to find the most popular player, you asked if Glenn Hoddle would top the poll in a Northern classroom. Well, the answer is no. Here's the voting in my class:

1 Kenny Dalglish — 4 votes.
2 Sammy Lee — 3 votes.
3 Ronnie Whelan, Terry Gibson, Bryan Robson, Gary Shaw, Tony Morley, Graeme Souness, Gordon Strachan, Glenn Hoddle — 2 votes.

11 — Martin O'Neill, Jimmy Nicholl, Gary Murray, Mike Conroy, Eric Black, Alan Rough, Derek Parlane, Kevin Moran, Ian Rush, Ralph Milne, Trevor Francis, Pat Jennings, Ray Clemence — 1 vote.

Fiona Paterson, Edinburgh.

I'M a staunch fan of Jimmy Case but he must have been totally overwhelmed by winning at Liverpool in the FA Cup or suffering from amnesia when he said in 'Match' that Anfield was his lucky ground and he had never lost there with Brighton.

He has. That was in October last year. Jimmy scored early on but Liverpool scored three by half time. Jimmy was substituted in the second half.

Steve Williams, Blackburn, Lancs.

• WRONG! The Brighton scorer in that match, who was later substituted, was Gerry Ryan. Jimmy did have his facts right.

TERRACE TALK

WELCOME to the best read letters page in football... with unique prizes for every reader who gets his or her letter published.

Yes, throughout the season we'll be giving away a super metal lapel badge (pictured) to every person whose comments are published in 'Match' and each badge will carry that special 'Terrace Talk' logo.

It's a prize that money can't buy and one could be yours!

Plus we will be giving a prize of £10 for what we consider to be the star letter of the week and, of course, the sender will also receive a 'Terrace Talk' badge.

So get those letters coming in NOW and you could be the envy of your friends.

Write to: Michael Weavers, 'Terrace Talk' Editor, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.



Kenny Dalglish — Liverpool sadly missed his magic touches in their European Cup defeat at the hands of Widzew Lodz.

IT was really heart-breaking to see Liverpool knocked out of the European Cup, beaten 4-3 on aggregate by Quarter-Final opponents Widzew Lodz.

I'm sure everyone hoped that Liverpool could overturn a 2-0 first leg deficit in the Anfield encounter, but the Reds ran out of luck.

The magic touches of Kenny Dalglish were sadly missed, but the Liverpool lads battled bravely and Craig Johnston, playing with great skill and fire, was outstanding.

Graeme Souness blamed himself for Lodz's penalty equaliser, but he had no cause to apologise. It just wasn't Liverpool's night.

Julie Smith, Dukinfield, Cheshire.

HAS 'Match' hit hard times? At the beginning of the season, 'Terrace Talk' stopped giving cash prizes and started awarding badges instead.

I bet this action halved the amount of letters you usually receive.

C. Macdonald, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

• ON the contrary. Our mailbag has doubled since we started awarding badges. Yours is on the way...

I'M sure we all agree that Glenn Hoddle is a bit of an enigma; some believe he is a 'fairy' and never gets stuck in; some think he can walk up the posts and along the crossbar!

But I'm sick of people knocking his game saying that he can't head the ball or tackle. Hoddle is not a 'workhorse' — a player that works hard and covers every blade of grass. He's a special player, a thoroughbred who can turn a game with his individual skills.

When a fully-fit Glenn Hoddle is in peak form, he is by far the most exciting player in the country.

Bharathan Perinparoja, North Harrow, Middlesex.

IN my opinion, Liverpool are unworthy of all the praise they receive. Their style of play is over-rated. They have a dull approach and play in a monotonous manner.

Liverpool's constant passing throughout the team has proved to be an effective tactic, but it doesn't excite the fans. The way Manchester United and Watford play — with a more direct approach — is much more entertaining.

All right, Liverpool get results, but surely English football is about more than just scoring goals and winning.

Paul Blair, Warrington, Cheshire.

• AND I thought that was all football was about...

WHY isn't Swansea striker Bob Latchford in the England squad?

Big Bob is among the leading Englishmen in the First Division scoring charts and has a great goalscoring record. He's great in the air and sharp on the ground. He should have had more England opportunities.

Paul Taylor (13), Newport, Gwent.

I'M sick and tired of the way Manchester United's Remi Moses is criticised. Sure, his tackles are hard and aggressive, but he is



Remi Moses — not a dirty player, says Janet Roebuck.

not a dirty player.

It must be hurtful for a polite, shy unassuming young man to be attacked in the Press for the way he plays.

I think Remi is brave, gives 100 per cent commitment and deserves much more credit for Manchester United's success than he gets.

There is nothing malicious about the way Remi Moses plays and the sooner people realise it, the better.

Janet Roebuck, Stretford, Manchester.

I AGREE with the West German writer to 'Terrace Talk' who said he'd like to see foreign tables and results in 'Match'.

Perhaps the best idea would be to carry the League results from Italy, West Germany, Spain, Holland, Portugal and Russia every week, with the League tables once a month. I think that would be great.

Simon King, Bedford.

I'M puzzled by the loan system operating in the Football League at the moment. The way some players are forced to move from club to club must mystify the fans and the players themselves.

'Match' spotlighted Kevin Bremner, who played for five teams in as many months, and another puzzling case is Terry Curran's loan spell with Everton. The Sheffield United star played particularly well for Everton, only to find the clubs could not agree a fee when his loan period expired.

With all this in mind, I suggest that First and Second Division players should only be loaned out if a permanent transfer can be negotiated at the termination of the loan period.

Andrew Ferguson, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

THAT'S A LAUGH!



A COUPLE of recent writers in 'Terrace Talk' have delighted in poking fun at Scottish goalkeepers.

One of their targets has been Aberdeen and Scotland 'keeper Jim Leighton. Now the joke's on them!

Leighton was brilliant in the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup Quarter-Final tie against Bayern Munich and was largely responsible for the 0-0 scoreline.

Aberdeen capitalised on Leighton's showing by beating the West Germans 3-2 at Pittodrie to march into the Semi-Finals as Britain's lone European representatives.

Who's laughing now?

Alan Connolly (12), Glasgow, Scotland.

THE birth of my baby daughter, Zoe, was the thing that kept me going during the frustrating months when I was out through injury.

If she had not arrived in the world when she did, I would have been a lot more depressed and unhappy as I made the long, hard fight back to fitness.

Those two months were awful. I really missed going to the training ground every day and preparing for matches... but having little Zoe around took my mind off things and helped me immensely.

Although the injury dragged on a lot longer than I anticipated, I never reached the stage where I felt my career was in jeopardy.

It was very frustrating, but I was assured by club doctors that the ankle ligaments, although torn, would eventually become strong.

When I first injured my ankle over two months ago in a game against Sunderland, I thought I would be back in action pretty soon... two or three weeks at the most.

I had my sights set on the England v Wales game at Wembley in February and was delighted when I was included in the squad for the British Championship match.

So you can imagine how disappointed I was to have to pull out of the squad at the last minute, when the same injury reoccurred.

In hindsight, I think I tried to come back too soon. I probably pushed myself too hard because on two or three occasions I hurt the ankle and set myself back a

THE GLENN HODDLE COLUMN

couple of weeks.

And coming on for the last 20 minutes of the FA Cup tie against Everton at Goodison Park was a mistake.

I was nowhere near fit and my ankle was not really strong enough to play that day, but the manager decided to take a gamble and put me on near the end to try and salvage a result.

As you know that didn't happen and we were knocked out of the competition after a glorious two-year reign.

The injury flared up again and I was back to square one, and that made the 2-0 defeat even more difficult to accept.

So it was back to the treatment room to start the rehabilitation programme again. And this time I was determined not to rush things and to be more patient.

There were other players at the club out through injury at the same time and we helped each other. In fact the treatment room has been full all season!

Once the ankle was strong enough to run on again I began training very hard, morning and afternoon... a lot harder than I would do under normal circumstances.

And, after two anxious months, I was ready for the big test in the First Division clash with Aston Villa at White Hart Lane.

I had been waiting a long time, so it was quite understandable that I was very apprehensive

The Spurs and England star tells of his return to top flight action. Don't miss his exclusive column every fortnight and only in 'Match'.



ZOE HAPPY!

Baby girl beats my injury blues

before the game.

But thankfully everything went according to plan and I emerged unscathed. It was great to be back in action and, although I tired near the end and came off, I was pleased with my performance.

I had lost a bit of my old sharpness, but I'm sure that will return with match practice. I suffered no reaction from the injury and was able to play again a few days later, when we went on a weekend trip to Guernsey.

On the day of the Milk Cup Final, when we were due to play Manchester United in the League, we had a game against a local club side on the island and beat them quite comfortably by six goals to one.

I played the full 90 minutes and, although it was not a severe test, it was another game under my belt and another step on the road to full, match fitness.

Hopefully all the injuries are behind me now and I can enjoy a clear run until the end of the season.

With a bit of luck I will be fully fit in time for Saturday's visit to Nottingham Forest who, like ourselves, are fighting for a place in Europe.

We beat them 4-1 earlier in the season with two goals apiece from Gary Mabbutt and Garth Crooks. We'll be looking to produce that

same form on Saturday.

Confidence is a lot higher at the club now following two good wins in recent weeks... against Watford (1-0) and Aston Villa (2-0).

And the man who did the damage for us in both those games was Mark Falco, who has just returned to the first team after a spell in the reserves and on loan at rivals, Chelsea.

Mark has struck up a good understanding with new signing Alan Brazil and thoroughly deserves his place in the side at the moment.

Alan seems to have settled in well at the club... on and off the field. And he'll have a chance to put one over on his former Ipswich team-mates when we play the Suffolk club a week on Saturday.

That will be another difficult game for us, but they are all going to be tough from now on.

Following our trip to Guernsey I went along to the PFA 'Player of the Year' dinner on the Sunday evening.

And it came as no real surprise to discover that Liverpool, fresh from their Milk Cup success over Manchester United the day before, made almost a clean sweep of the major honours.

I voted for Kenny Dalglish as my 'Player of the Year' and I was very pleased to see him win.

Glenn Hoddle

● Glenn Hoddle was talking to Dave Smith.



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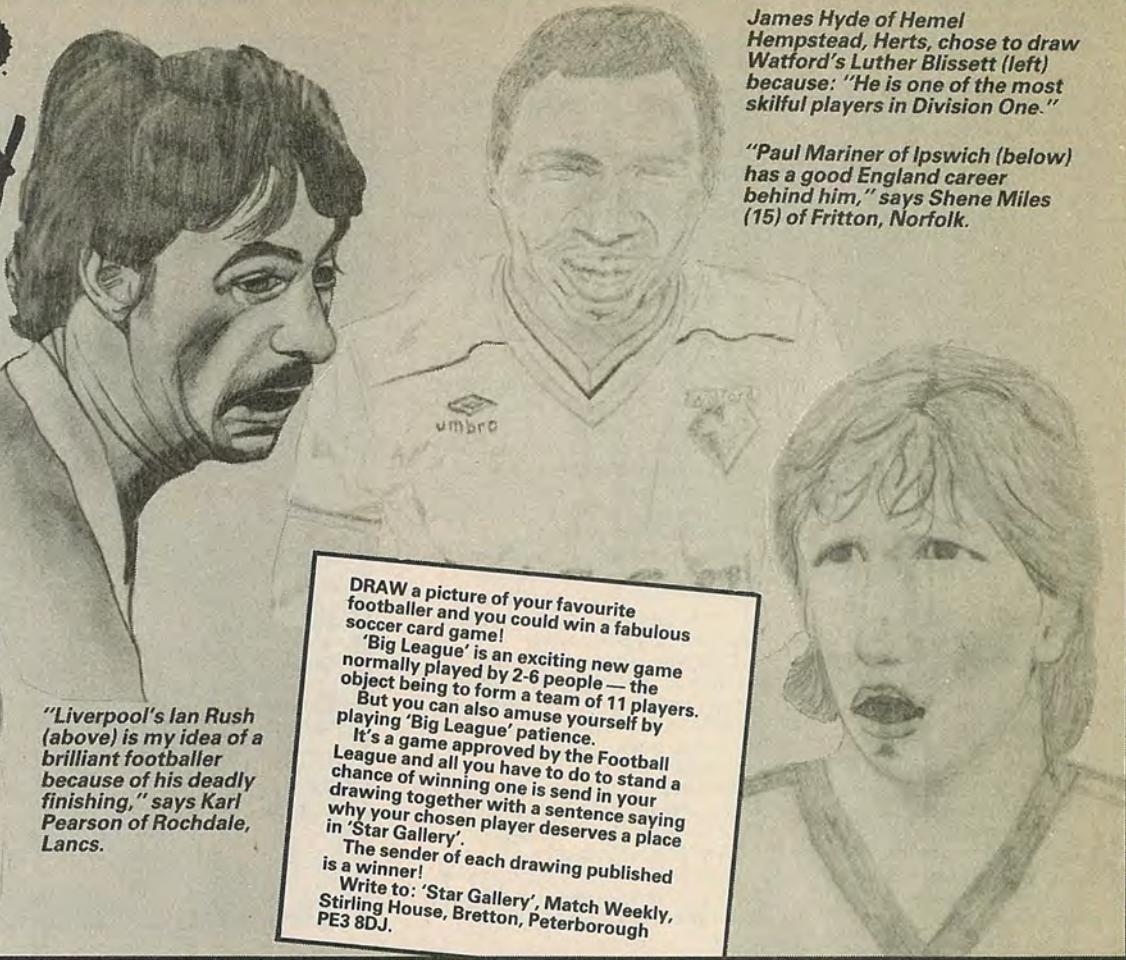
Alan Brazil — struck up a good understanding with Mark Falco as Spurs beat Watford and Villa.

STAR GALLERY

Leena Haimi of Kuusisto, Finland, says of Spurs goalkeeper Ray Clemence (below): "He's the best goalie in England's football history."



"Liverpool's Ian Rush (above) is my idea of a brilliant footballer because of his deadly finishing," says Karl Pearson of Rochdale, Lancs.



DRAW a picture of your favourite footballer and you could win a fabulous soccer card game!

'Big League' is an exciting new game normally played by 2-6 people — the object being to form a team of 11 players.

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The sender of each drawing published is a winner!

Write to: 'Star Gallery', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8DJ.



Match Highlights!

Hi-Tec Milan is the top-of-the-range boot by Inter. It's available in full and half sizes. Also available are Hi-Tec Roma and Hi-Tec Real, two more great styles. Choose from the impressive range of Hi-Tec trainers too!



James Hyde of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, chose to draw Watford's Luther Blissett (left) because: "He is one of the most skilful players in Division One."

"Paul Mariner of Ipswich (below) has a good England career behind him," says Shene Miles (15) of Fritton, Norfolk.

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MAYBE it's because he's a Londoner that big Dave Swindlehurst is so happy about his latest move.

Following his £200,000 transfer to West Ham, the delighted striker declared: "Being a London lad, I couldn't have wished for a better move."

"Although I enjoyed my spell at Derby, I've missed the city and it's great to be back home."

The West Ham move came right 'out of the blue' and followed weeks of speculation that Dave would be joining European Champions, Aston Villa.

Dave was being labelled as the ideal replacement for Peter Withe and it seemed inevitable that a deal would go through.

But with the transfer deadline looming, Villa withdrew their offer and it looked as though he was destined to remain at Derby.

"I came in from training on the Monday before the deadline and read in the local evening paper that the Villa deal was off," he says.

"Obviously a move to a big club like Aston Villa appealed to me but, the way the thing had dragged on, I half expected it to fall through."

"There wasn't time to feel deflated however, because within a matter of minutes the phone rang and I was talking to West Ham manager John Lyall.

"He said that West Ham and Derby had agreed terms and he wanted to talk to me about going to Upton Park.

"The thought of going back to London meant little hesitation in deciding it was the right move for me."

"Mr Lyall came up to see me that evening and we talked until midnight before rushing off to a London hotel to clinch the deal at about 2am."

"It's a terrific move and more appealing than Villa, simply because it means I'm back in London."

Dave left London three years ago when he became disillusioned at Crystal Palace. "I was going through a rough patch and was in and out of the side," he recalls.

"I felt I needed a change and, when Derby agreed to take me on loan for two months, I decided to give it a go."

HAPPY HAMMER

SWINDLEHURST

THRILLED BY

LONDON MOVE

"At the time there were rumours that a few other clubs were interested in me, but nothing came of it. If another London club had come in for me, I would never have left the city."

Although Derby were relegated from the First Division that year, Dave chose to stay at the Baseball Ground.

"I had struck up a good partnership with Alan Biley and was enjoying my football again," he says. "Everyone at the club was confident we could bounce straight back again, but unfortunately it didn't work out that way."

"We've been struggling at the wrong end of the Second Division for the past couple of seasons, but things have picked up since the arrival of Peter Taylor and Roy McFarland."

"We were conceding far too many goals earlier in the season, but the defence was tightened up a lot recently and I would like to think Derby can avoid the drop."

Following the arrival of Taylor and McFarland at the Baseball Ground, Dave was asked to play a new role.

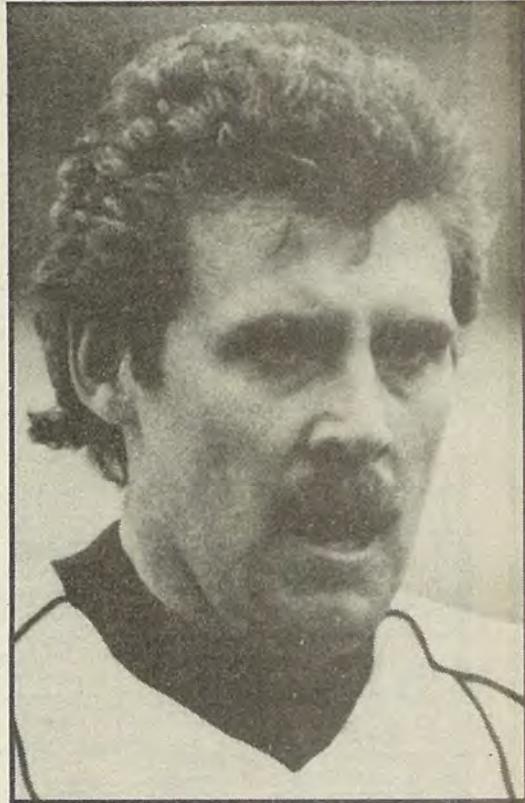
"I was drafted into midfield and quite enjoyed it, but I think I'm more effective as a front runner," he says.

"I know I can still score goals at the highest level and I'm hoping to prove that at West Ham."

Dave has been bought as a replacement for Sandy Clark, who left West Ham to join Scottish club Rangers.

"Having talked to the boss, it seems that they have lost their way a little up front since David Cross went to Manchester City," says Dave.

"They bought Sandy to take over the main striker's role, but it never really worked out. Hopefully I can do the job the manager demands."



Dave Swindlehurst — terrific move.

Dave, who has signed a three-year-contract with the 'Hammers', believes his new club has a bright future.

"It's a terrific set-up and the manager seems to have built a stable squad. There are some great players here and I'm looking forward to playing alongside people like Alan Devonshire and Paul Goddard."

"It's great to be back in the First Division again, and hopefully next season I could be playing in Europe too."



Alan Devonshire — "I'm so looking forward to playing alongside him," says Dave.

OFFER: Celtic football shirt (size 30/32).
WANTS: Everton v Liverpool programme (1978/79 season) and any other programmes from 1980/81 season.
John O'Donnell, 120 Vanguard Street, Drumry, Clydebank, Dumbartonshire, Scotland.

OFFER: Two Arsenal pennants and one, large Arsenal rosette.
WANTS: Luton Town bobble hat and Luton pennant.
Greg Littlewood, 9 Sunningdale Drive, Woodborough, Notts.

OFFER: Manchester United scarves, sun hat, baseball cap, pennant and two metal badges.
WANTS: Any Bradford City souvenirs (scarves, badges, photographs etc).
John Varney jnr, 10 Seymour Place, Oundle, Peterborough.

OFFER: Subbuteo 'Club' edition and three football pennants (all excellent condition).
WANTS: 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1974 FA Cup Final programmes.
Alan Moroney, 26 Russell Street, Luton, Bedfordshire.

OFFER: Over 600 Panini stickers (Football '80, Football '81 and World Cup '82).
WANTS: Any football programmes in good condition.
Garry Potter, 19 Upperfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

OFFER: Five Subbuteo teams (Wales, Belgium, Manchester City, Japan and Hull) and accessories.
WANTS: Five Subbuteo teams (Arsenal, Watford, Norwich, Spurs and Eire).
Christian Counsell, 37 Hewett Close, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

WEST German manager Jupp Derwall and Italian boss Enzo Bearzot are both facing the sack — eight months after leading their teams out in Madrid for the World Cup Final.

Public pressure has built up to fever pitch in both countries because of poor form in European Championship and friendly games this season.

West German manager Derwall caused a furore when he dropped Hamburg's Manny Kaltz for the vital clash with Albania.

It was the first time that Kaltz, 30, had been dropped during Derwall's 50-match reign as boss. Kaltz was regarded as a vital springboard for attack and had won 69 caps.

Derwall also found himself under fire from his superstar skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who claims the team's strikeforce needed Schuster and Magath in midfield to create chances.

But when Derwall sent for Schuster, he found himself at loggerheads with the midfielder's club, Barcelona, who had a Spanish Cup game the same day.

Even Derwall's friendship with new Barcelona manager Cesar Menotti could do little to help the situation and the German Press began a campaign for positive action.

Bearzot, meanwhile, faced the wrath of his country's sports Press after the 1-1 draw in Cyprus. The Press decided the situation had reached rock bottom and insultingly urged Bearzot to nationalise French skipper Platini, who was in brilliant form for Juventus.

Platini himself was not keen on the idea, carried in banner headlines. He said:

THOMAS STIRS UP A STORM

CAMEROON'S World Cup goalkeeper Thomas N'kono has stirred up a storm in Spain where he plays for Espanol of Barcelona.

The amiable black 'keeper is quoted as saying that Spanish football is "more like a bullfight". He said: "Nobody cares about the performances. I have never seen anything like it."

But he added that he had not had any bad receptions from the fans anywhere in Spain and that the Spanish people had been very hospitable to him.

Officials of his club are considering disciplinary action.

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"I am completely French and always will be. There's no chance of this happening. It's out of the question."

In the past, genuine Frenchmen Altafini, Da Costa, Ghiggia, Schiaffino and Sivori played international football for Italy in this way.

CHOP CHOP

Final bosses face the axe



Manny Kaltz — dropped by West Germany boss Jupp Derwall.

■ WEST German international Hansi Muller, now with Inter-Milan, has finally satisfied the wishes of the Catholic fraternity by marrying his long-time girl friend Claudia.

But his happy news has been offset by the bad news from Germany that his action to try and recover 31,000 marks he believed he was owed by his former club Stuttgart has not succeeded. The German club claim that Hansi didn't work for them at the end of his time there and deserves nothing.

Golden Eagles

REMEMBER Jan Jongbloed? He was the Holland goalkeeper who got himself a reputation and a nickname of 'keeper-cum-sweeper' when West Germany beat the Dutch in the 1974 World Cup Final.

One minute he was tipping a hot shot over the bar and the next he was running outside the box to head the ball away.

Now, at 42, he has made a sensational comeback with Go-Ahead Eagles in the Dutch First Division.

Go-Ahead were struggling in the relegation zone, so they sent for Jongbloed and 35-year-old central defender Dick Schneider.

Schneider was seeing out his days with a top-class amateur club while Jongbloed was assistant coach to Haarlem, but both jumped at the chance to get back into the big action.

As Jongbloed says: "I'm not here to bring off those spectacular saves the television cameras love. I'm here to help the other players to relax a bit and concentrate on their job without getting into a panic."

"I've still got a bit of self confidence."

BLACKED COFFEE!

COFFEE could become the new banned 'super drug substance' at the next World Cup!

Dr Antonio Losada, of the FIFA medical committee, reports that none of the officially banned substances were detected during any of the 52 World Cup fixtures last year.

But statistics showed that there were large amounts of caffeine detected.

Dr Losada said it is possible that caffeine will be banned as from this year if it is found in high percentages.

■ THE great Swedish goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstroem may well have played his last match.

The 34-year-old Kaiserslautern player broke an arm recently in a friendly game against Stuttgart and it may bring about a premature retirement.

RETURN OF 'THE KAISER'

FRANZ Beckenbauer is making a comeback this summer.

The man they call "Der Kaiser" in Germany goes back to New York Cosmos in May just to play out the summer season. But 50 games will result in Beckenbauer collecting a cool £125,000.

The Americans might be regarded as dollar-crazy. But they know what they are doing. When Beckenbauer last played for Cosmos between 1977 and 1980, their average gates were around 48,000. Since he left, that figure has dropped to 23,000.

Coincidence, or the public appeal of 'Der Kaiser'? That remains to be seen, but Cosmos are happy to pay out to find out. As 37-year-old Beckenbauer says: "Obviously I am past a comeback in Europe, but there's something about the American competition that helps players of my age to give something back to the game without running ourselves into the ground."

"I enjoyed my time in New York, so I hope it's going to be another happy summer."

■ BOTOFAGO, the former club of the 'King of the Dribble', the late Brazilian winger Garrincha, have decided to erect a monument to his memory by naming one of the gates at their Rio Stadium after him and also by having a statue made.

FORMER Norwich City skipper Mick McGuire may have sacrificed several thousands of pounds in a bid to stay in the League's upper bracket for at least another two years.

Next season would have been his testimonial at Carrow Road, but the 30-year-old midfield player decided to throw all that up to join Second Division Barnsley in a surprise £30,000 transfer deadline deal.

"I'd been out of the team since the middle of December, and there was no guarantee that I would be in the first team on a regular basis next season in my testimonial year," says Mick, who joined the 'Canaries' from Coventry nine seasons ago.

"I might have had a poor season which would have affected my testimonial, and, at the end of the day, I would probably have found myself in the Third or Fourth Division."

"There's not a lot of movement from Norwich, unless you are a striker, and most players at the end of their careers with the club end up in the lower divisions or in non-League."

"I still believe I have three or four good years left. I'm at my peak now and the move to Barnsley has given me the chance to stay near the top for at least another two seasons, plus the fact that I'm back in my native North of England."

With Norwich battling to survive in the First Division, it appeared strange that the club captain should be allowed to leave at this crucial stage of the season.

But, as Mick explains: "I'd been out of the team and, despite their lowly position, they have been playing quite well."

"I think the decision to release me was a reward from the club for my nine years' service, culminating in me leading them back into the First Division last season. I also felt I was at the stage of my career when I needed a move and a fresh challenge."

"I felt I had done all I could for the club and the time had come to move on."

But Mick wouldn't have moved anywhere just to return to the North. "I certainly wouldn't have considered a move to a Third or Fourth Division club in the North but, when I discovered that it was Norman Hunter's Barnsley who were interested, I knew it was an offer I had to consider very seriously."

"They have been one of the leading clubs in the Second Division for the past two seasons and they have achieved that by playing football — that appealed to me more than anything else."

"The club and the team are very organised and there is more than a hint of the old Leeds United about the set-up."

"They've signed me to operate as I like best, picking up the ball in deep positions and playing it through midfield. With all due respect to the players at the club, I think they needed a little experience in that position, and I hope I can provide it."

"I was very impressed with the way we won 3-0 at Chelsea in my first game. I know Chelsea may be going through troubled times, but it's still quite a feat to win 3-0 away from home, especially at a place like Stamford Bridge."

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McGUIRE'S SACRIFICE



"There are signs of how quickly the club has risen from the Fourth Division because the ground is not yet up to First Division standards, but Norman has players who have the ability to take the club out of the Second Division, and that's what is important."

"And it's still not out of the question that Barnsley could get promotion this season."

Mick, dropped for Norwich City's Christmas 'derby' win at Ipswich, and then injured, still believes the 'Canaries' are capable of avoiding an immediate return to the Second Division.

"We came with a late run to achieve promotion last season, and there is no reason why they couldn't put some results together again," says Mick, whose injury problems restricted him to only 182 League appearances in nine seasons.

"There are certainly more than three teams worse than Norwich in the First Division."

"If you take out the top two teams, results between the other 20 would be different every time. The line between success and failure is that slim."

"They are still getting tremendous crowds at Norwich for the position they are in and the players certainly have the ability to get out of trouble, although it often needs more than that to stay up."

Looking back on his time at Carrow Road, Mick believes that an Achilles tendon injury just over two years ago robbed him of a chance of international recognition.

"There were always doubts about my stamina early on, but between the ages of 28 and 32 I felt I would be at my best."

"But at 28, I had to have an Achilles tendon operation after injuring myself playing volleyball on holiday. That made the absence even more frustrating."

"That came in the close season after Norwich had finished above midway in the First Division and manager John Bond was pushing my name forward for international recognition."

"And when John says that, he means it — just ask players like Justin Fashanu and Kevin Reeves."

"But that injury set me back and it was only during last season that I began to show my true form again."

Left: Mick McGuire — felt he had done all he could for Norwich City and the time was ripe for a fresh challenge.

Focus on Queen's Park
Rangers raider . . .

Simon Stainrod

FULL NAME: Simon Allan Stainrod.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Sheffield/Feb. 1, 1959.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6ft/13st.
MARRIED: Yes, to Gillian.
CHILDREN: Charlotte (3) and Georgina (3 months).
CAR: Renault 18.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sheffield Utd and Oldham.
TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None.
CLUB NICKNAME: 'Stan'.
WORST EVER INJURY: Torn ankle ligaments — they have ruined this season for me.
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: My QPR team-mate Tony Currie. He always has the skill to surprise.
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Sheffield Wednesday.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Zico (Brazil). He has everything a footballer needs.
BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: Jennings (N. Ireland), Wilson, Statham, Moore, Charlton J., Currie, Ball, Stiles, Hudson (all England), Best (N. Ireland), Law (Scotland).
ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: Jennings, Carlos Alberto (Brazil), Beckenbauer, Breitner (W. Germany), Moore, Di Stefano (Spain), Maradona (Argentina), Puskas (Hungary), Pele, Zico (Brazil), Best.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough.
BEST GOAL SCORED: Against Cardiff for Oldham in 1980-81 season. It was a spectacular overhead kick.
BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: By Mario Kempes for Argentina in the 1978 World Cup Final.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Paul Futcher (Derby).
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Last season's FA Cup Final at Wembley against Spurs.
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Scoring a hat-trick at Sheffield Wednesday last season.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: A period at Sheffield United when the manager kept telling me what a bad player I was.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Rugby Union and cricket.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Reading, rock music, good conversation and antiques.
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: London rush hour traffic.
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Hill Street Blues, The South Bank Show and OTT.
TV SHOW YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: Most situation comedies.
FAVOURITE READING: Biographies.
FAVOURITE POP STARS: The Jam, B 52's, and Frank Sinatra.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.
FAVOURITE DRINK: Orange squash.
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: France.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Errol Flynn, Jack Nicholson, Julie Christie.
BEST FRIENDS: Stephen Foster, John Gregory and Peter Young.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father, the late Bill Taylor and Terry Venables.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: Coaches who, through their lack of thought, spoil the fun of the game for youngsters.



Right: Arsenal goalkeeper Pat Jennings — the best in the world, says Simon Stainrod.

SUPERSTITIONS: None.
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Nothing.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Three England youth caps.
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy and wealthy.
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To manage England and win the World Cup!
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Manager.
PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Martin Duffield — a midfielder at QPR.
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Play each game as if it is your last — it's the only way to find out how good you are.

